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OXFORD STREET LONDON

NEWS IN SUMMARY

'Mountain' of railway arrears

If the Government approved electrification now the railways might not be able to implement it, Sir Peter Parker, British Rail chairman, said yesterday (Michael Bailey). That was because the railways were facing a mountain of arrears in necessary expenditure.

Addressing a rally of rail pensioners at Euston, Sir Peter declared that present railway policies could be regretted in the longer term. British Rail had hit all its targets in the past five years but "we can meet our financial targets and still fail the future".

This warning was echoed by Sir Henry Johnson, a former railway chairman, he said that with the most cost-effective railway in Europe Britain was failing to apply consistent policies and investment. The public were getting angry and railwaymen were blamed.

Appealing to the Government to help the railways after the recent "shattering setback", the chairman of the pensioners, Mr Frank Hick, a former railway operator, said: "We have watched with great sadness the current dispute and tearing apart of our railway inheritance."

MPs to protest against Reagan

A group of Labour MPs yesterday announced plans to dub President Reagan "an enemy of peace" during his visit to Britain in June. They have formed a Reagan Reception Committee, already backed by Mr Wedgwood Benn and more than 30 other Labour MPs, to organize protests during his visit.

MPs are expected to join pickets against the President at Heathrow, Windsor Castle and the United States Embassy.

When he is received by both Houses of Parliament on June 8, the "reception committee" plans an alternative meeting in Parliament's grand committee room.

Mr Ernest Roberts, the committee chairman, said in London the group did not regard the American people as an enemy, but that Mr Reagan was "an enemy of peace". His meeting with his wife and his visit to the White House would be a war in his own backyard, Mr Roberts, MP for Hackney, North, and Stoke Newington, said.

Benefit cut for school-leavers

Up to 350,000 families will lose child benefit this summer under new regulations affecting school-leavers. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced yesterday that child benefit will be withdrawn for any school-leaver getting either a place on a Youth Opportunities Programme or a full-time job during school holiday periods (Pat Healey writes). In a written answer yesterday Mr Fowler said it was difficult to justify continuing payment of child benefit for young people who got full-time work during the holidays.

Hugh Jones is incurable.



He's planning his autobiography.

Hugh Jones was married and successful in his career as a sales representative when he contracted multiple sclerosis. The symptoms took some time to develop, but now he is one of our patients, confined to a wheelchair. His mind, though, is as keen and active as ever—he studies with the Open University, writes poetry and is planning an autobiography which he hopes will encourage other sufferers from multiple sclerosis.

We have over 270 incurable patients to care for. We cannot cure them. But we can help them. Skilled care can help them surmount their disabilities as much as possible, and can help them lead as full a life as possible. But we, too, need help. We are not part of the Health Service and we rely a lot on the generosity of the compassionate. Please help us with a donation, a deed of covenant or a bequest.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL & HOME FOR INCURABLES, (Putney and Brighton), Dept. T2, West Hill, Putney, London SW15 3SW. Patrons: HM The Queen and HM The Queen Mother. Director of Appeals and Publicity: Air Commodore D. F. Rixson, OBE, DFC, AFC.

Power engineers dash hopes for strike pact

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Prospects of the present Government negotiating a no-strike agreement with the bigger public sector groups when delegates of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association, whose 38,000 members control supplies to the National Grid, voted overwhelmingly "not to enter into any agreement with the employing boards that removes the right to strike."

The move came as the union's conference in York was told by Mr John Lyons, the general secretary, that industrial action was "very possibly unavoidable" if the Electricity Council failed to maintain pay differentials enjoyed by engineers and managers over the industry's 90,000 manual workers.

The power engineers' association, one of the most powerful and moderate of TUC-affiliated unions, is thought to have been almost the only one to take up informally the idea of a no-strike deal when it was floated by the Opposition during the 1978 to 1979 "winter of discontent."

Only a few hands were raised yesterday against to call to oppose such a pact, proposed by Mr Tony Aldous, of the union's headquarters branch. Mr Aldous said it would be wrong for the union "to sell the right to strike for 30 pieces of silver."

Backing the anti-pact motion, Mr Lyons said: "We have never set out to hold the country to ransom over greedy pay claims. However, when you see how the employers behave when you have the right to strike, how do you imagine they would carry on if you were without it?"

No legal arrangement

Firm seeks to regain factory

By Clifford Webb

Messey Ferguson will apply to the High Court today for an order to regain possession of its Coventry tractor plant from striking pickets who have barricaded themselves inside and refused to admit management and staff for the past week.

Summons were served on shop stewards and members of the strike committee at the factory gates yesterday. A company representative also announced through a loud hailer that application was being made to a judge in chambers today under Order 113 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. That deals with the recovery of premises from squatters. None of the unions involved is likely to contest the company's action.

It will be the third time in seven years that the Canadian-owned company has had to go to court to recover Europe's biggest tractor plant from worker occupation. In 1975 the management were shut out for six weeks before the strikers were ejected.

could embody a no-strike provision at the same time as protecting the earnings of the union's members, he said.

Mr Aldous told delegates that while the Conservatives had not since assuming office come up with any firm proposals for a no-strike pact he believed they might do so in the next year or so in an attempt to buy popularity before a general election.

Opposing the motion, Mr Peter Randall, from Reading, said that the strike weapon had come to be seen as a "sort of trade union virility symbol" and added: "Are we ever likely to use it, and if we do will it be effective?"

Mr Lyons's warning that industrial action was possible in the near future came during a debate about the Electricity Council's two-month delay in making a pay offer to engineers and managers who earn between £5,635 and £23,150 per year. The suggestion that differentials over manual workers will be eroded to maintain the gap between the top of their pay scale and the £23,500 earned by the lowest-paid area board members. Mr Lyons said that engineers and managers were meeting "the meat in the sandwich" between board members and manual workers.

Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, who cancelled a visit to York because of yesterday's emergency cabinet meeting, escaped what would almost certainly have been a rough ride from delegates angry about the dismissal of Mr Glyn England, chairman of the Central Electricity Generation Board, and about the Government's plan to sell off part of the electricity supply industry.

Mine strike threat to save pit

By Paul Routledge

Industrial action that could spread throughout the mining industry is being planned over the fate of a single pit in the militant Kent coalfield.

Area leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers have drawn up plans for an immediate 24-hour strike if the National Coal Board does not approve a £3m development scheme to keep open Snowdown colliery. Snowdown, which employs 850 men producing 300,000 tonnes a year of valuable coking coal, was one of 23 pits scheduled for closure under the coal board's accelerated shutdown programme that was abandoned a year ago in the face of a national strike threat.

Coal board mining engineers agreed then to investigate possible reserves below the existing seam, which is nearing exhaustion, and they have discovered a rich measure ranging from 5ft to 8ft in thickness, just 40yds farther down.

An application to go into those reserves will be considered on April 22, and the miners hope that the development scheme will be approved. If it is not, and the pit is put back on the closure list, Kent area miners will stop for an undisclosed period to attend "action meetings" at which proposals to extend the stoppage will be discussed, and almost certainly approved.

Mr Jack Collins, secretary of the Kent area miners' union, said yesterday that an extended stoppage in the coalfield would be spread rapidly to other areas through flying pickets.

Kent miners will also seek the sacking of the union's national executive under its new president, Mr Arthur Scargill, who was elected on a "no pit closure for economic reasons" ticket. Miner's sponsored MPs would also be asked to give the report.

The miners of Kent are the first to attempt to halt the coal board's closure programme at local level.

Mr Howells emphasized that the Labour Movement for Europe is committed to comradeship and partnership with all democratic socialists in Europe. "It is now clear that the policies being pursued in France that our economic programme in no way conflicts with our membership of the EEC," he said.

Mr Vaughan said: "The prosecution have tried, in my submission vainly to establish that this young woman was a participant in the damage. They seek to say the fact that she went there in the car with someone involved and that she had met them in a pub is evidence of intent and participation. And it is not evidence of intent."



Mr and Mrs Duncan: 'It's a dream coming true and worth every penny'

Third time lucky for test-tube mother

It could be third time lucky for the wife of a Coventry schoolmaster who is expecting test tube twins. For Mrs Satwinder Duncan, aged 24, whose husband Mr Carlton Duncan, is the deputy head of Sidney Stringer Community College in Coventry, was unsuccessful with two previous attempts at the Cambridgeshire clinic of Mr Patrick Steptoe, pioneer of the test-tube baby technique.

Now a hospital scan has confirmed that Mrs Duncan, married for five years, will give birth to twins early in September. She said yesterday: "It's delightful news and a dream coming true. I will have three."

The couple, who live in Aldbury Rise, Coventry, recently adopted a boy aged three. Mr Duncan said: "The first two implants cost £1,600 each and the final one £1,800. But it is well worth every penny."

Later this month he takes over as

headmaster of a 1,000 pupil school in Bradford.

The Steptoe clinic is maintaining its usual confidentiality by refusing to discuss whether there are any other test-tube twins on the way in Britain.

Only a small proportion of the attempts to implant a fertilized ovum in the uterus are successful. (Our Medical Correspondent writes). In order to increase the likelihood of success, many gynaecologists are now using more than one ovum at a time. This will result in a higher than normal incidence of twinning. More than one attempt can be made at implantation but each requires the patient to be admitted to hospital for ten days for laparoscopy and other checks. As the cost on each occasion in the private sector, is about £2,000 financial rather than medical considerations are likely to be the prohibitive factor.

Labour group praise for TUC Europe view

By George Clark

The prospects of Labour's policy on withdrawal from the European Community being influenced by the more realistic attitude now being adopted by the TUC general council are discussed in a pamphlet, *Labour Prejudices and Reality*, published yesterday by the Labour Movement for Europe.

Mr Denis Howell MP for Birmingham, Small Heath, and Labour frontbench spokesman on the environment and sport, says in a preface that as the research departments of the party and of the TUC begin to assemble the facts, a disturbing difference of approach is found.

"Labour gives the impression of rushing in with every intention of justifying the decisions already taken," he writes. "Fortunately, the TUC seems to be asking all the right questions about options and alternatives, so essential if we are to state with clarity and conviction the means by which British jobs can be maintained and British prosperity assured after we have left the EEC."

The pamphlet argues that withdrawal could push unemployment up to five million, due to a loss of export trade and of investments, and disagrees with the claim by Labour opponents of the EEC that Labour must take Britain out of the Community if it is to pursue the alternative economic strategy.

"These arguments are based on ignorance, xenophobia and a blind refusal to accept facts," it states.

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Co-op faces boycott for hunting ban

By Hugh Clayton

The British Shopping Sports Council decided yesterday to boycott all shops, bank branches and other trade outlets in the Co-operative movement. Voting at the closed meeting in Westminster, London, was unanimous.

The boycott was designed as a gesture of support to hunters which face growing pressure from their opponents. Mr John Farr, Conservative MP for Harborough and chairman of the council, believes that all rural sports that involve killing are at risk.

The National Rifle Association was the only one of the 11 member organizations of the council not to attend yesterday's meeting. The others all supported Mr Farr's emergency motion calling for a ban.

The boycott was aimed at the Co-operative movement because of a ban on hunting which will be imposed in June on the 30,000 acres of land owned by the Co-operative Wholesale Society. A spokesman at the headquarters of the society in Manchester said that the boycott would be imposed because the Co-operative Bank and the 170 retail societies which owned all of the movement's shops were independent of the wholesale society. Some of the retail societies owned rural land which would not be affected by the hunting ban to be imposed by the wholesale society.

The wholesale society had received letters from supporters of the hunting ban who said that they would increase their custom at Co-operative shops, the spokesman said. The ban does not apply to shooting rights on Co-op farmland.

The decision to mount a boycott indicated a growing fear among supporters of rural sports that they have failed to meet the challenge posed by organizations like the League Against Cruel Sports. The league has campaigned for a ban on hunting on land owned by Berkshire County Council and failed narrowly last week to win a ban in the heartland of foxhunting in Leicestershire.

The prosecution are trying to say she can't do her job as a reporter. A reporter, who goes to the scene of a crime, albeit knowing it was going to be committed, stands and observes it being committed and does a draft report on those facts — is that an offence?

Many reporters are present and are tipped off beforehand that a potentially illegal act is going to be committed. We are concerned with the basic principles of the press freedom. The public have the right to accurate information and fair comment. She was reporting the event as accurately as she could. She was exercising her right to do that in a democratic society."

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Challenge of SDP in local polls

By Richard Evans and David Walker

Two-thirds of the 2,300 SDP candidates fighting next month's local government elections have elected to contest an election before, it was disclosed yesterday.

With the Liberals providing a similar number of candidates, the two-party Alliance is fighting nearly all the town hall seats which will be decided by voters on May 6.

Mr John Cartwright, SDP MP for Greenwich, Woolwich, East, party spokesman on local government, said at the start of the party's first large-scale electoral campaign yesterday that many of the SDP candidates with little political experience "were diving in the deep end".

"These elections will be a major test for our organization because we cannot concentrate in the same way as we can for parliamentary by-elections. Many of our candidates have never fought anything before. Many of our agents have never been agents in an election, so everybody is learning."

"It is very much a dress rehearsal for us. It is experience which we very much need in terms of the coming general election. We regard it as a searching test of our organization," he said.

The SDP has held training sessions attended by about 1,000 candidates and agents. Mr Cartwright said he was disappointed that only 15 per cent of the SDP candidates were women, but was encouraged by the number of people from ethnic minorities contesting seats for the party.

Social Democrats have agreed a joint policy with their Liberal partners in many areas and their slogan for the campaign is, care about people, care about costs.

"We want to try to give local government back to the people," to make it more relevant, more caring and to bring it closer in touch with the people it is there to serve, while at the same time trying to deliver services in as efficient and low cost way as we can.

"That means challenging everything that has been done in local government. The fact that so many of our MPs are new to local government is a plus factor. They will go in questioning and challenging everything and trying to find better and cheaper ways of providing services," Mr Cartwright said.

The SDP wants to restore public confidence in local government which, it says, has been undermined by the attitudes and policy of central government as well as the actions of extreme Labour councils.

Schools peace

A teachers' dispute that had lasted for six weeks in the London borough of Barking during the education of thousands of children, was settled yesterday. Schools will be back to normal when the summer term begins on April 19 after an agreement between the National Union of Teachers and the Labour-controlled authority which had agreed to restore 100 of 152 teaching posts due to be axed.

'Disastrous' to reduce junior doctors' posts

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

A reorganization of the health service so that all patients were looked after by consultants and there were fewer junior hospital doctors, would be as disastrous for the services as the last reorganization in 1974, the Royal College of Physicians said yesterday.

The number of hospital consultants should be increased but not at the expense of junior doctor posts, as the Government was planning, a report from the college said.

Government plans to cut junior hospital doctors, if implemented, would mean that family doctors, who have to work for a period in hospitals before becoming general practitioners, would not be properly trained in children's medicine because there would not be the training posts available.

With fewer junior staff, consultants would also have to endure indefinitely the restrictions on personal life that juniors accepted for a limited period in order to become fully trained and experienced.

The college was replying to the Short report, produced

Democrats ballot on election method

By George Clark

Ballot papers will be circulated today to the 78,000 members of the Social Democratic Party to collect their views on the method of electing the party leader, on the representation of women on the council of the party, and for the ratification of the draft party constitution.

There is an extra ballot paper seeking approval for bringing forward the date of electing the leader from November to June, 1982.

Members are asked to choose between three methods of electing the leader: 1. If there is more than one nomination, the leader should be elected by postal ballot of all members and there should be a mandatory review of the system in three years; 2. The election should be by ballot of the SDP members of Parliament; 3. The leader should be elected in the case of any election before the next general election, by postal ballot of all members of the SDP, but after the general election it should be by ballot of the SDP MPs.

The area parties sponsoring the options give a summary of their reasons. The Newcastle upon Tyne party, putting forward the first option, says: "The leader will set the direction, style and public image of our party. He or she must have the widest appeal to the party and the country. We believe that 78,000 members are better judges of that than an electoral college of MPs."

The Hounslow party, proposing the second method, says: "The SDP wants to strengthen Parliament. It will not do so by taking the choice of its parliamentary leader out of the hands of members of Parliament." To suggest that the leader, and possible Prime Minister, should be chosen for the SDP more caring and to bring it closer in touch with the people it is there to serve, while at the same time trying to deliver services in as efficient and low cost way as we can.

The Kensington and Chelsea party, proposing the third option, says it accepts the principle that, in the longer term, the MPs should choose the leader. "But that principle is justified only when MPs are properly representative of the whole party. After the next general election... our SDP MPs will have a just claim to represent the party."

On the question of women's representation, the ballot form offers two choices, one a system where area parties select one man and one woman to be members of the party council, with extra representation for area parties containing more than three constituencies. The extra members would be of either sex. The other choice is the election of members without reference to sex.

A leading article in today's issue of *Liberal News*, the Liberal Party's weekly journal, deplores the "disastrous jostling" which is going on within the SDP leadership. "The election of a leader for the SDP is entirely a matter for them," it states.

Local polls challenge, page 2

Sir Douglas Black, president of the Royal College, predicted yesterday that the Government, which has accepted the Short report, would implement only those parts which would save money. The result would be fewer junior doctors but no more consultants.

Senior house officer posts in hospitals had been frozen yet the recommendation of the House of Commons Select Committee on Health, which was set up in 1982/83 by 118 has been cut to 10-15 posts by the health authorities and the Department of Health and Social Security.

Sir Douglas said that the college was critical of the "simplistic" view that junior posts could be frozen and converted into senior posts. There had to be sufficient juniors to filter into the senior posts, he said.

CORRECTION

Mr William Reed-Davies MP states that Judge Pickles in a case, reported on March 31, in which two families were awarded damages for an abandoned holiday at a villa on Corfu, accepted that the contract was based entirely on a brochure and did not find that Mr Reed-Davies had described the villa as "the best on the island".

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$2.25; Barbados \$2.00; Belgium \$1.75; Canada \$1.50; Denmark \$1.25; France \$1.00; Germany \$1.00; Greece \$1.00; Hong Kong \$1.00; India \$1.00; Italy \$1.00; Japan \$1.00; Korea \$1.00; Luxembourg \$1.00; Malaysia \$1.00; Mexico \$1.00; Netherlands \$1.00; New Zealand \$1.00; Norway \$1.00; Portugal \$1.00; Singapore \$1.00; South Africa \$1.00; Sweden \$1.00; Switzerland \$1.00; Taiwan \$1.00; Thailand \$1.00; United Kingdom \$1.00; USA \$1.00; Yugoslavia \$1.00.

FALKLANDS CRISIS/1

Admiral pins his faith on air superiority

By Henry Stanhope Defence Correspondent

Air superiority could be crucial in determining any confrontation between the Royal Navy task force and the Argentine forces in the Falkland Islands. Achieving it, however, could present Rear Admiral John Woodward and his senior commanders with their greatest problems.

The task force will have an estimated 20 Sea Harrier jets, 12 in HMS Hermes and eight in HMS Invincible. The Argentines have one aircraft carrier, the elderly 25th of May which has a peacetime complement of 14 A4 Skyhawks — but will probably have more on board from its reserve in the event of a naval battle.

The Harrier is technically a small offensive aircraft, with a performance constrained by the sacrifices made to enable it to take off and land vertically. On the other hand the Navy, like the RAF, launch Harriers from short take-off. They also have the advantage of the ski-jump, the ramp in the bows which gives the aircraft extra lift into the air.

In the context of an isolated sea battle the Harrier offers the Navy a great deal and its potential as a ground attack aircraft in support of an amphibious landing, is indicated by its adoption by the United States Marines.

The Navy has the latest Sea Dart area air defence missile which is installed on HMS Invincible and three Sheffield class destroyers in the force. Other ships including three of the four Leander frigates and two Amazon class frigates, which are better suited to the task, have the older, shorter range SeaCat.

But the Argentines have two Sheffield class anti-aircraft destroyers of their own — with Sea Dart on board — sold by Britain in the kind of deal which might have made economic sense at the time. Their light cruiser, which is on station there, is also equipped with 70 or so SeaCats. So to some extent, like is facing like — even if Royal Navy sailors, being all professional, should have

more expertise in using their anti-aircraft weapons.

The chief difficulty for Admiral Woodward, however, is that the Argentine coast is only about 400 miles from Port Stanley, while Britain is 8,000 miles away. This puts any naval battle within range of the Argentine Air Force's 68 Skyhawks, which have an average tactical radius of action of around 70 miles, and its squadron of 19 Mirage interceptors with a similar range.

This would not provide the Argentine Navy with additional air cover if they engaged the British in the area of South Georgia, about 800 miles to the south-east. But this would seem unlikely anyway. Current thinking is that the British task force, 2,500 miles away from its "forward" base on Ascension Island, will make first for

South Georgia where the current crisis first erupted, in the hope of securing a foothold in the South Atlantic.

From there, they would then mount their assault first on the Argentine Navy and then, all being well, on the Falklands themselves which means in effect Port Stanley.

The Sea Harriers would probably be needed to provide air cover for the Royal Marines and other troops as they storm ashore — if the worst comes to the worst. That would leave the Navy's surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) to protect the carriers and other warships from the Argentine mainland. Meanwhile the effectiveness of Argentine carrier borne aircraft might be neutralized by action taken against the carrier itself by hunter-killer submarines.

Gales and ice ahead

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The task force is sailing into a stormy part of the ocean at the worst time of the year. Although the main islands of East and West Falkland, separated by a 25 miles-wide strait are at about the same latitude in the southern hemisphere as London is in the northern half, the climate is more severe. Ice could be encountered at South Georgia.

Conditions at sea are similar to those in the North Atlantic Approaches off the Outer Hebrides, but the weather is colder. The latitude of the Falklands, and 200 small islands scattered around, is between 51 degrees and 53 degrees south.

Most of them miss the full force of the Roaring Forties which sweep across the middle latitudes of the south. Nevertheless, a persistent wind of about 15 knots blows from the west at the time of the year. The frequency of gale force winds and heavy seas increases as winter approaches at the end of April.

If the area of operations extends as far as South Georgia, the crews would begin to feel the harsh effects of the Antarctic convergence. Although pack ice does not extend as far as South Georgia, the bays of that island are over-ice early in winter. But the coastline of the main islands is deeply indented and provides many secure and sheltered anchorages. Those natural harbours were used in preparation for one of the principal battles of the First World War. The battle of the Falklands between a British squadron commanded under Vice-Admiral Sir Doveton Sturdee and a German squadron under Vice-Admiral Graf von Spee, was a reprisal by the British for earlier losses at sea.

For this second encounter, two battle cruisers, Invincible and Inflexible, were detached secretly from the Grand Fleet in the North Sea to reinforce the British squadron in the South Atlantic. All but one of the German squadron was sunk.



Defiant gesture: A confident Falkland Islander under the Argentine flag

The task force sails on

Carrier crew to get smell of cordite

From John Witherow, on board HMS Invincible, April 6

Part of the British naval force bound for the Falkland Islands rendezvoused in the South Western Approaches today while HMS Invincible, the anti-submarine carrier, started to bring its Harrier jets and Sea King helicopters to full operational capacity.

HMS Fearless, the assault ship carrying Marines and Commodore Michael Clapp, overall commander of this section of the fleet, sailed from Portsmouth and was due to join the force within the next day or so. Some frigates, sea King vessels, were already with Invincible and the flagship HMS Hermes, but the Navy was reluctant to publicize details of the force.

Once the ships have assembled they will head to night in the direction of the Falklands. The rest of the fleet which is sailing for Ascension Island from operations off Gibraltar.

Preparations on board Invincible, which has been sold to the Australians and is due to leave in May, continued with vertical take-off Harrier jets practising mock combat and evading "enemy" radar systems by skimming in low over the waves. For some of the pilots it is their first time on board the ship and they have been acclimatising themselves to landing on a platform while still within range of mainland bases.

To facilitate operations the carrier circled at only a few knots in calm about 100 miles south of the South Isles while last-minute supplies were flown on board by helicopter.

Captain Jeremy Black, aged 50, addressed the crew after a full-scale practice emergency and outlined the respective strengths of the British and Argentine fleets.

The route the ship would be following and the type of preparations to be undertaken as the carrier headed for the South Atlantic.

The mood among the crew and especially the Harrier pilots is one of jubilation. To say they are spilling for a fight would be an exaggeration but they are nonetheless ready and prepared for it and feel the islands should be regained by whatever means necessary.

"It's what we're trained to do," one officer commented. Lieutenant-Commander Nigel "Sharky" Ward, in charge of 801 Harrier Squadron, said they were undertaking a full training programme to give some new pilots practice in supporting a marine landing and entering air combat.

"That is our bread and butter," he said. "It is what we are best at. We are keen to go and very confident."

"That has to be balanced by the fact there will be a few butterflies in our stomachs when we get up there on the flight deck and there will be a lot of agro in the air."

He said the ship was capable of coping with chemical or nuclear contaminated zones by sealing itself and building up a higher air pressure inside and was well equipped to cope with flooding.

"There has been an unofficial change in the identification of lifejackets aboard ship. A notice in the flying clothing store reads: 'Due to the untimely death of Mas West all Mark II, 15 and 25 life preservers will be now known as Dolly Partons'."

Underneath someone has scribbled "or, Erika Rees".

HMS Fearless, the assault ship which will spearhead any attempt to regain the Falkland Islands, yesterday gathered her brood of landing craft like ducklings under her wing and moved out from Portsmouth to join the task force (Stewart Fendler writes).

Navy's biggest headache is replenishing supplies from a base 4,000 miles away.

One important factor preoccupying the task force is the necessity for replenishment of supplies. To conduct operations 4,000 miles from the nearest base is quite a thing to do, the captain said. The fleet will be accompanied by a number of supply vessels and there are plans to send out relief craft but it is undoubtedly a problem exercising the minds of Naval Command.

The present period of training as a time to get the ships to full fighting capacity and to make some adjustments. "We are a navy who tend to train against a Russian threat and here we see some slight changes in that," he said. "The thing I am talking about is a matter of detail but nonetheless important."

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Harrier pilots trained against US 'aggressors' in Britain and Sardinia

He said they had trained against a United States "aggressor" squadron flying F5s in Britain and Sardinia and had "wiped the table". But he was aware that the margin for error in modern jet-fights was extremely small. "If a pilot gets it wrong for one or two seconds he's a dead man. The Harrier can bite back if you don't fly it properly."

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The sophisticated aircraft at sea showed on the faces of the pilots as they returned from debriefing. One man, Lieutenant Mike Watson, had just made a perfect landing for the first time at sea and had armed with heat-seeking Sidewinder missiles and cannon, the Harriers intend

On a cold, wet and windswept day there was little sign of the thousands who gathered in Invincible and Hermes leave on Monday. But as Fearless nosed out of the dockyards, her siren booming across the water, people began to appear on the harbour walls. Many were mothers and wives, some of them openly in tears.

For there was no doubting Fearless's bellicose appearance. The decks were lined with men from the 580-strong crew while at there were ranks of Marines dressed in battle fatigues. In their midst were ranged field and anti-aircraft guns, part of the equipment for a Marine force of 500-700 men on the ship.

General's gamble

Retreat could cost Galtieri his job

By Peter Stafford

Argentina is a potentially rich country with enormous natural resources, as almost every Argentine is aware. But it has suffered badly from misgovernment, both civilian and military, in recent years, and the result is that it has failed to fulfil the promise which it showed earlier this century.

General Leopoldo Galtieri, who came to power last December in a bloodless coup within the regime, is only the latest in a long line of military men who have taken the view that they know what is best for the country. His declared objective, like those of his immediate predecessors, is to reverse the decline and begin a process of national reconstruction.

The difference is that he has decided to set about it in a flamboyant and adventurous style. He clearly sees the invasion of the Falklands, which almost all Argentines regard as being properly theirs, as being a popular issue.

If he pulls it off, he will have succeeded in distracting attention, at least for a time, from the economic hardships now afflicting the country. If he is forced to withdraw, he will suffer a humiliating setback, which will not be forgiven either by Argentine public opinion or by his fellow members of the armed forces, who could be counted on to try to remove him from power.

The present military regime took power in 1976 at a time of exceptional disorder in Argentina. Strongly armed and well financed guerrilla groups were active in many parts of the country; and the economy was in ruins, with inflation reaching 54 per cent in a single month and the currency reserves reduced to almost nothing.

The tottering government of President Maria Estela Peron, widow of Juan Peron, was plainly unequal to the task of restoring order, and the intervention of the armed forces, headed by General Rafael Videla, was widely welcomed.

On the economic front the new military government had some success, initially at least, in restoring normality, boosted by the natural resilience of the Argentine economy. Inflation was brought down, along traditional liberal lines.

But the operations on the other front, against the guerrillas, were more controversial. In the face of an admittedly serious threat, the armed forces made a deliberate decision to wage a "dirty war", in which anyone who was even suspected of sympathies with the guerrillas, or of having any sort of contact with them, was liable to be kidnapped, tortured and killed.

The policy was successful, in that the guerrillas were virtually eliminated from Argentine life. But in the process thousands of people,

Alliance's boat rocked by Steel

By Anthony Bevin Political Correspondent

Action by Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, to prepare for an early general election over the Falklands crisis last night caused new divisions within the party. It was learnt yesterday that he is to advise party negotiators to speed up their negotiations on the division of parliamentary seats with the Social Democrats, completing the carve-up before the new deadline of April 20.

But this was done last night by senior Social Democratic sources who described the move as irresponsible at a time when all parties in the Commons should be seen to be rallying around the Government in its resolve to win back the occupied British territory.

While Mr Steel believes that an ultimate solution may yet have to be built around the possibility of turning the Falklands into a United Nations dependency, an idea that may yet be extended to Gibraltar and Hongkong, his alliance partners feel most strongly that negotiation should concentrate on a return to British sovereignty.

The Liberals also appear to be less resolute on the issue of force, echoing one Labour MP's comment that the "blank cheque" for the military solution.

The Social Democratic argument is that talk of an early election, United Nations dependency and qualifications to the use of force all help to undermine the Government's position.

Oil a key factor in attempts to resolve the crisis

By Michael Frenchman

A preliminary contract option from the Argentine state oil agency YPF to negotiate prospecting rights in the controversial Magallanes offshore block, which straddles what is called the "putative" medium line between the Falkland Islands and the Argentine mainland, Atlantic Richfield's consortium included Mobil which later dropped out possibly because of the political position. Technically speaking, the islands only have a three-mile limit as Britain has never declared a 200-mile economic zone around the islands. In any case, this would not have been recognized by the Argentine Government as it claims sovereignty of all the waters around.

The British Government was unaware of the prospective risk contract until when it was drawn to its attention by The Times. It took the unusual step of publishing an advertisement in the press warning international oil companies not to go ahead.

Argentina is currently moving more than 95 per cent self-sufficient in oil and gas but is anxious to become a net exporter in order to boost its ailing economy which is why it has stepped up the offshore drilling programme on the basis of risk contract.

Oil industry sources claim that the overall prospects are encouraging, but until a proper exploration programme over the whole area has been carried out it is impossible to say whether the true position. Atlantic Richfield said last night that they

had shown an interest in the disputed Magallanes offshore block, which adjoins waters where test drilling has been carried out, because the seismic data "looked encouraging."

The Foreign Office is in the past been consulting on numerous occasions the applications for drilling off the Falklands but has refused to grasp the problem, the hope that companies would lose and go away.

One oil expert has said that the indications are that oil and gas deposits are likely to be found in the South Atlantic, which is a geological layer, this layer lies between the Argentine mainland and the islands and dips to the east.

It is thought that the main reservoir, if it exists, will be closer to the islands than the mainland. But this cannot be proved until test drilling takes place. This has not happened because the British Government has not been able to reach agreement with Argentina.

Over the last 18 months, Argentine Foreign Ministry officials have privately expressed extreme frustration at Britain's attitude over this matter as they would have liked to see some kind of joint proposal for "production sharing agreement".

It now seems possible that such negotiations for joint production agreements, bringing in the United States as guarantor, in return for a share of the revenue, could lead to a possible basis for a transfer of sovereignty lease-back settlement.

International law would favour the British argument

Despite the emotional tide which swept through the House of Commons during last Saturday's emergency debate, references to the international law aspect of the Falkland Islands debate could be detected. The paucity of order, marked by the Speaker's repeated calls for order, was equalled only by the rarity of attention to the legal nature of the issues and proposals put before the House.

The Prime Minister informed the House that the unprovoked aggression by the government of Argentina had not a shred of justification or a scrap of legality. This cannot be gainsaid. The conduct of Argentina is a classic violation of Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter — prohibition of the use of force against the territory of any state — to which Argentina has been a party since October 24, 1945, when that paramount international law instrument came into force.

It might also be pointed out that at no time has Argentina subscribed to the optional clause of the International Court of Justice accepting its compulsory jurisdiction. Judicial settlement would

manifestly be the proper method of settling the Falkland Islands dispute. Argentina claims to be entitled to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. So does the United Kingdom. Such an international legal dispute "should as a general rule be referred by the parties to the International Court..." in accordance with the provisions of its statute (Article 36 [3]) of the Charter. The optional clause has been subscribed to by 45 states to date.

The conduct of Argentina during the last few days does not spell out to the world much confidence in the UN Charter or the validity of Argentina's claim to the Falkland Islands and Dependencies. No doubt that was a factor which the UN Security Council took into account, as it has before, when adopted last Saturday's resolution demanding an immediate cessation of hostilities, and the immediate withdrawal of all Argentine forces from the Falklands and called on Argentina and Britain to seek a diplomatic solution of their differences and to respect fully the charter.

Argentina has now violated at least two of the charter's principles: to settle its dispute with Britain by peaceful means, and to refrain from the use or threat of force against the territorial integrity of any state (Article 2(3) and Article 2(4) respectively).

The UK claims, according to Mr. Nott, the Defence Secretary, to have dispatched its task force as its right of self-defence under Article 51 of the charter, sometimes called the most over-worked provision of the charter. The Prime Minister has thus given this country room to move both within the mandatory terms of the Security Council's resolutions cited and in lawful exercise of the UK's "inherent" right of self-defence under the charter.

Mrs Thatcher stated in the parliamentary debate that she could not foresee what orders the task force would receive as it proceeded. That, she said, would depend on the situation. Meanwhile, as she reiterated at question time yesterday, she hoped that continuing diplomatic efforts, helped by Britain's many friends, would be successful.

The "inherent" right is in this instance and individual self-defence. The Falkland Islands stand outside the geographical limits of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization area under the Atlantic Treaty, which is the right of self-defence being "inherent", is exemplified, but not exhaustively, by its formulation in the charter.

The famous formulation of the US Secretary of State, Daniel Webster, in 1823, stated: "There must be necessity of self-defence, instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means and no moment for deliberation... it must involve nothing unreasonable or excessive since the act justified by the necessity of self-defence must be limited by that necessity and kept clearly within it." This formula received endorsement in a judgment of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg in 1946, and was unanimously reaffirmed by the UN General Assembly during the debate, that Britain declare its right to a 200-mile limit around the Falklands. It would, he said, "be compatible with international law to declare within that limit that no Argentine vessel should appear, and if it did, the British Navy would take action."

This is a curious proposal. In time of armed conflict at sea, such a limit would restrict action by the Royal Navy to an extent not required by international law. In time of normality a 200-mile limit would be difficult to justify because such a claim for a territorial sea is not yet accepted in international law.

More curiously, and what was not mentioned by any MP during the debate, but which may be immediately practical, is the humanitarian treatment that must be accorded to any UK service man or merchant seaman captured by the Argentine forces, as required by the Geneva (Prisoner of War) Convention, 1949, and the like instrument which must be accorded to our civilian nationals now in the occupied Falkland Islands, under the Geneva (Civilians) Convention, 1949.

Argentina is a party to both conventions and it is this country. For this purpose it would appear that both Argentina and this country will be bound, as a matter of international law, to accept the offer of the humanitarian services of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Saturday's debate in the Commons, generally, was not illuminating, so far as international law was concerned. This is odd because the validity of all our present actions directed against Argentina, whether naval, military or economic, are based on that international law. If not so based, they have no validity whatsoever. International law may need more attention than it has so far received in this incident.

Perhaps today's debate will be focussed more precisely.

G I A D Draper
(Professor Emeritus in Law, Sussex University)

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FALKLANDS CRISIS/2

Expatriate Britons are getting out fast

From Christopher Thomas, Buenos Aires, April 6

The expatriate British community in Buenos Aires is in a state of panic. The signs of tension are there, the easy atmosphere has gone, and if the Falklands are stormed their days in Argentina will be miserable if not over.

Each day charter aircraft are hired in Montevideo, half an hour's flight away in Uruguay, to take Britons home. They are all packed with businessmen and their families heading the advice from the British Government to get out fast.

They cannot transfer money through the banks any more and their cars are "frozen", so they cannot drive them out of the country. But they choose to flee because the Argentine people, who are notoriously volatile, are becoming increasingly restive with every advance of the British task force and anything could happen at any time.

A few days ago firms employing British people in Argentina were advised by the embassy in Buenos Aires, which is now officially the property of the Swiss, to get all non-vital personnel out in 48 hours. The exodus has been carried out efficiently, swiftly and almost unnoticed.

But what of the thousands who remain? What if the anti-British sentiments now sweeping the country get out of hand?

The mood in the English Club in central Buenos Aires is gloomy, depressing and fearful. A few days ago a policeman stationed himself outside the front entrance, watching the comings and goings of those who regu-

larly take lunch or a sun-downer in the colonial surroundings of their distinctly British enclave.

There are probably 17,000 people of British origin who hold British passports in Argentina and who are therefore, highly vulnerable to any sudden change in the Argentine situation. But even those with Argentine passports, some of them fifth generation Argentines — feel uneasy.

The British are found everywhere in the country. The Welsh community in Pinar del Rio, Welsh, Spanish and no English. The English and Scots communities are completely bilingual, mostly Argentine born.

They are confused by their division of loyalties and bitter over what they see as the mishandling of the Falklands affair.

The general view is that Britain failed to read the warning signs, which were patently obvious three months ago and that the counter-invasion is a bad idea. Argentines generally respect the British, the railways, telephones, meat plants and much else were developed by Britons, and La Torre de Los Ingleses (The English Tower) built and donated by the British community in 1910, is one of the most delightful pieces of architecture in the city.

Buenos Aires happily abhors a great deal of British culture. There is the hospital Británico, the British orphanage, the Sunset House for the elderly and St John's Anglican Cathedral and a host of British churches and schools. They could be threatened, but the British Community Council administers many



Major Gareth Noot, back from the Falklands, is reunited with his wife Anne and daughters Katie, aged 11, Deborah, 7, and Nicola, 9.

charities collecting huge sums for those who cannot pay for schooling or medical care or who cannot survive the absurd inflation rate. The target this year is \$300,000 (about to be raised by raffles, fetes, fictions and various other means).

The St Andrews Society, which supports the English Society and Welsh

Society, organizes a pipe band with full Scottish regalia. The Latinists are agitated by it but they have accepted it, though there is a good deal of sniggering at the kilts and the rest of the paraphernalia.

"Our British community has fragmented a great deal since the war," lamented one senior member of the Eng-

lish Club who, like everybody else, said it could be dangerous to name him. "But we continue to survive, we have kept our British identity but equally we feel we are Argentinian."

He drank his British gin. "But if they try to take back the Malvinas we will not be safe. Three policemen are already guarding the British

Caledonian office and we have that chap outside guarding us. It's all a great deal of bloody shame."

He left his deep leather armchair, passed by the huge photograph of central London, and walked out into the stifling autumn air. He said a friendly, almost hopeful good night to the policeman. There was no reply.

Argentine import licences revoked

By Rupert Morris

All imports from Argentina into Britain worth more than £100m a year were banned from midnight last night, the Prime Minister announced in the House of Commons yesterday.

All import licences were immediately revoked, but consideration would be given to application from British exporters for licences to import goods which could be shown to have been in transit before the ban took effect.

Mr Peter Rees, the Trade Minister, said: "Argentine exports to the United Kingdom in the last four months of 1981 were worth £56m, substantially more than the £47m worth of goods exported from the United Kingdom to Argentina."

This balance of trade is thought to be atypical, however, as the Department of Trade statistics for 1980 — the latest complete year's figures — show the value of Britain's exports to Argentina as £173m, compared with imports from the same country worth £114m.

About half Britain's imports from Argentina consist of meat, which in 1980 was worth £29m. Of this half was corned beef, and half frozen cuts of prime beef, mainly for use by big catering chains and steak houses.

Mr Jack Bailey, president of the National Federation of Meat Traders, which represents High Street butchers, said there would be no effect on shop prices. The Australians had a lot of beef to sell and he expected any shortfall to be made up by them.

Importers of frozen beef were, however, concerned that other producers might put up their prices to cope with increased demand.

Confusion over payments freeze

Argentina's move to suspend payments to creditors and British residents announced yesterday by Señor Roberto Alemann, the Economy Minister, has led to deepening confusion in financial circles (Peter Wilson-Smith writes).

The move was taken in retaliation for the blocking of Argentine assets by the British Government but it is still unclear to what extent banks in Britain, which have lent Argentina \$5,800m (£3,300m), will be affected. There were indications from one big British bank yesterday that repayments from Argentina had already been frozen, and there is concern that the Argentine may open the way for one of its bank creditors to call it in default with wide-ranging implications for financial markets.

Correction

The officer appointed by Argentina to be "Governor" of the Falkland Islands is General Mario Benjamin Menéndez and not Luciano Benjamin Menéndez whose profile was published yesterday.

EEC asked to unite on trade sanctions

From Ian Murray, Brussels, April 6

Britain today puts its case for a united EEC front of trade sanctions against Argentina at a meeting of permanent representatives to the Community. The member states were asked to take action quickly in order to show their common disapproval of the invasion of the Falkland Islands.

Britain was not expecting the other member states to take as severe an approach as it had done itself, and there was no suggestion that other countries should be asked to sever diplomatic relations with the Argentine junta.

Nevertheless, Britain was hoping for trade sanctions covering steel, footwear, agricultural products and textiles to be introduced quickly.

In preparation for such measures the European Commission was working on a draft proposal for sanctions based on article 224 of the Treaty of Rome. This says that member states should consult and take steps together to prevent the European Community being affected by any measures brought in by an individual country in certain defined circumstances.

These include: "Serious international tension constituting a threat of war, or in order to carry out obligations it has accepted for the purpose of maintaining peace and international security."

The Commission itself discussed the Falkland crisis at its meeting this morning and issued a statement afterwards condemning "the armed intervention of Argentina

against a British territory linked to the Community, an intervention committed in violation of international law and the rights of the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands."

The statement went on: "The Commission expresses its solidarity with the United Kingdom. It makes an urgent appeal to the Argentine Government to implement the resolution of the (United Nations) Security Council, calling on it to withdraw its troops from the islands and to continue seeking a diplomatic solution."

"It expresses the hope that the Organization of the American States will join its efforts to those of the United Nations in order to ensure, by diplomatic means, that a solution based on law prevails."

The Commission cannot take any action on the issue without the approval of the ministerial council. Sanctions could, however, be agreed between the permanent representatives and passed on for formal approval by whichever council is next held. At the moment, this is scheduled to be that of the agriculture ministers on April 20. Unless a special meeting is called for at short notice this would be the first date on which an EEC response could be properly agreed.

The EEC has a positive trade balance of about £256m with Argentina, but if the categories suggested by Britain for sanctions, the community has a trade deficit.

Pym puts off his Mideast trips

By Denis Taylor

Mr Francis Pym, the new Foreign Secretary, will not be going to Syria and Jordan next week for the visits planned by Lord Carrington, because of the crisis over the Falkland Islands.

It was being emphasised in Whitehall last night that the trips to Damascus and Amman have been postponed, not cancelled.

Even before Lord Carrington's resignation, the possibility of the visits taking place had looked extremely remote.

But last night there were no plans to change arrangements for the meeting of British and Spanish foreign ministers at Sintra, Portugal, on April 20 for talks on the future of Gibraltar. This is the date on which the Spaniards are due to open the gates on their side of the frontier with Gibraltar.

The great importance which Madrid attaches to a whole range of developments involving Britain is appreciated in London. These include the British membership to the EEC and Nato, as well as the opening of the Gibraltar border.

Whitehall sources would not be drawn into commenting on the enthusiasm with which the Argentine invasion of the Falklands has been greeted in some circles on the Spanish right, beyond saying that the British Government was aware of these sentiments.

There is, in any case, no obvious prospect of a Spanish and Argentine claims on British territories. Spain has tried to exert pressure over Gibraltar for years, but a military intervention has not been in prospect.

The Foreign Office included extensive briefings on the Falklands crisis. He had to prepare himself for the formidable task of opening for the Government in the debate on the Falklands in the Commons today.

It was being underlined that his becoming Foreign Secretary does not imply any change of policy, whatever changes of emphasis or style may emerge from the new holder of the office.

The point of departure for a British foreign policy remains the United Nations Security Council resolution demanding Argentine withdrawal from the Falklands.

The sailing of the naval task force for the South Atlantic was depicted as being intended to strengthen diplomacy, while the overall aim remained to avoid war.

But it was also being emphasised that the withdrawal of Argentine occupying forces from the islands remained an absolute condition for any settlement.

It has apparently been clear to the United States that if Washington was thinking in terms of any political initiatives, a solution would have to involve the removal of the Argentine troops.

President Reagan has said that America would do all that could be achieved to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict.

As well as having to cope with the finer points of the crisis, Mr Pym is already finding out that a foreign secretary cannot focus on one subject exclusively at a time. The office involves coping with a constant flow of advice and discussions

Washington tries to head off clash

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, April 6

As the Royal Navy's task force headed towards the open seas, the United States began a series of high level meetings in an attempt to head off an open confrontation between Britain and Argentina over the Falklands.

This morning Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, presided over a meeting of senior officials to consider ways of preventing a clash between its major ally and a leading pro-western member of the Organization of American States (OAS).

This afternoon Mr Haig was due to hold separate meetings with Sir Nicholas Henderson, the British Ambassador, and Señor Esteban Lakas, the Argentine Ambassador. These were to be followed in the evening by a discussion between Mr Haig and Señor Micanor Costa Mendez, the Argentine Foreign Minister who arrived in Washington yesterday to explain his country's occupation of the disputed islands to a special meeting of the OAS.

The Americans say they are not trying to act as a mediator between the British and Argentines at this stage but are merely using their good offices to try and resolve a dispute between two of America's allies.

President Reagan described America's role yesterday as that of honest broker.

American officials admit they have no firm ideas yet how the dispute may be resolved, or even how the two protagonists can be prevented from opening fire on each other. "We are kicking around a number of ideas but nothing has firmed up yet," said one.

One idea which has found some favour here is a refinement of the "hemispheric support" for his country's seizure of the islands and hinted that Argentina might involve the 1947 Rio de Janeiro Treaty to counter what he termed British aggression.

However, it was also clear that Señor Mendez, by continually referring to the existence of "British colonialism" hopes to gain the support of much of the Third World if a shooting war develops.

He sought to give the impression that Argentina had been capably reasonableness and that Britain consistently obdurate during the 149 years of the dispute. He dismissed Britain's argument that the wishes of the inhabitants of the islands should be the main consideration in any settlement.

Ascension prepares supplies for fleet

Ascension Island, April 6. Military activity increased today on Ascension, the strategic island in the South Atlantic when a British fleet auxiliary ship arrived and began taking on stores.

The unexpected arrival of the Fort Austin, 8,160 tons, followed the dispatch of the task force from Britain to try to retake the Falkland Island from Argentina.

Eyewitnesses said military stores were being flown into the island by Royal Air Force C130 transports, but a security clampdown by the island's administration meant no details were available.

Four C130 Hercules were seen on the airstrip, which Mr Bernard Pouncefort, the administrator, said yesterday would be restricted to authorized traffic.

Mr Pouncefort has said security prevented him from saying anything about the situation, but he is to make a statement to the islanders on Thursday through their local news sheet.

Speculation that the fleet might use Ascension as a staging post on its 8,000-mile voyage persists, despite the "informed sources" who say that the ships will be routed past the island to cut down the sailing time. — Reuter.

World reaction

UK had too much faith — France

M Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, yesterday described the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands as an "attack pure and simple," which had not been preceded by any provocation (Charles Hargrove writes from Paris).

The minister, who was being interviewed on the radio, added that the security of Argentina has not been threatened by Britain. He also expressed personal regret over the resignation of Lord Carrington as Foreign Secretary.

The British Government, he added, had perhaps put excessive faith in negotiations with the Argentine Government over the future of the islands. This could explain the absence of preparation against the possible military landing on them.

The affair was a very serious one, this explained the very clear stand taken by the United Nations Security Council on the matter. Mr Cheysson declared on Monday night in Nice, where he had gone to meet President Amadou Ahidjo of Cameroon, on a private visit to the country.

"In the Malouines (Falklands)" he said in today's interview, "Britain has been attacked from the outside, without there being the least symptom of a local revolt."

He implied, would have justified the operation as an anti-colonialist one. M Cheysson explained the violence of the reaction of British public opinion by the fact that "Britain is a great country with a glorious history, and its people acted like a nation which feels humiliated."

About Lord Carrington's resignation, Mr Cheysson said: "He is a man of great qualities, astute, experienced, with a great sense of humour. We shall miss him a lot. I would add that I am not surprised that, faced with all the criticism levelled at him in the House of Commons, he decided to take upon himself the whole responsibility for this affair, for he is a man of honour."

The minister had established close personal relations with his British opposite number. They stood Franco-British relations in good stead in the rough weather which they periodically have to face, and

prevented natural conflicts of interest over Community policy from degenerating into fundamental misunderstandings.

He added: "The decision of the Security Council condemning Argentina is a very rare decision, and many countries in the world are going to apply themselves to persuading it to agree to a diplomatic solution. It is hard for me to imagine that a country like Argentina could ignore a Security Council decision."

Le Monde, which is not usually inclined to make any concessions to what it describes as Britain's lack of European conviction, paid a fulsome tribute to the former Foreign Secretary yesterday.

"He is probably not a convinced European (but are there any in Britain?)", the paper says. "And he took good care not to reveal any differences with the Prime Minister, whose style was nevertheless the opposite of his."

But his realism, his moderation, his professionalism, earned him the respect and esteem of his partners in the Community. They knew that if there existed a possibility of agreement, Lord Carrington would not let it pass by. His departure will not facilitate agreement among the Europeans."

The French Government is studying the British demand for the imposition of sanctions against Argentina. The demand will be studied by the experts of the Ten in Brussels. The Foreign Ministry refused to state what attitude France would adopt on the matter.



M. Claude Cheysson: Regrets at Lord Carrington's departure

Canberra: Cabinet recalls ambassador

The Australian federal cabinet decided to recall its ambassador from Argentina for "urgent reasons." Mr Malcolm Fraser will return to Australia immediately. Mr Anthony Street, foreign minister, said that the decision had been made to express Australia's deep concern and condemnation of the Falklands invasion. (Our Melbourne correspondent writes).

The Government will consider implementing trade restrictions against Argentina but Mr Malcolm Fraser, the prime minister, ruled out sending Australian troops to the area.

He said that he did not see Australia going to war in the Falkland Islands but he had written to Mr Thatcher and indicated that Australia strongly supported Britain.

Mr Michael Mackellar the

acting Foreign Minister, told Señor Orlando Cappellini the Argentine Ambassador of the governments' concern. The cabinet was brief and the ambassador was given copies of statements made by the Prime Minister and Mr Mackellar during the weekend. Mr Cappellini had been prepared to be ordered to leave.

Earlier on Monday Sir John Mason the British High Commissioner saw Mr Mackellar at Sir John's request and the Australian Ambassador in Buenos Aires called on the Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister.

The New Zealand Government had ordered the Argentine Ambassador to leave New Zealand and told the Argentine national airline to discontinue its flights between Buenos Aires and Auckland.

Pretoria: No base sought

Britain has made no approach to South Africa about using the Simonstown naval base according to a spokesman of the South African Department of Foreign Affairs (our correspondent writes from Cape Town).

The Falklands are about 3,600 nautical miles from Simonstown. A request by Britain for use of its facilities could place South Africa in a dilemma. It has been cultivating good relations with South American countries recently, most of whom appear to be backing Argentina.

The republic maintains diplomatic relations with Argentina, without Alfredo Oliva Day, but his country's view of the dispute at a press conference in Cape Town yesterday.

Meanwhile the South African government is being urged by the Cape Times to make the Simonstown naval base available to the Royal Navy in the crisis.

Warsaw: No support

The hard-line Polish Army daily Zolnierz Wolnosci turned its attention briefly from problems at home to offer support to Argentina's generals (Our Warsaw Correspondent writes).

A commentary argued that the status quo on the Falklands about which the British government speaks was a

remnant of the colonial system and charged that the "smell of petrodollars in part prevented Britain from recognizing Argentina's historic claim to the islands through 17 years of fruitless negotiations."

The commentary said that the Argentine Government's dramatic decision to invade the islands and the British decision to dispatch the fleet could have consequences which went beyond the two parties concerned as indicated by Saturday's stormy debate in the Security Council.

Poland abstained in the vote on the British resolution calling for a withdrawal of Argentine forces.

Hague: No weapons

The Dutch Government aligned itself with Britain and banned weapons shipments to Argentina.

A Dutch firm has a contract to provide electronic guidance systems for Argentine warships under construction in West German shipyards. They will not be delivered.

□ Bonn. — If Argentina does not withdraw, the West German Government may decide to halt delivery of frigates and converted ordered by Argentina under a major construction programme, but cancellation would threaten thousands of jobs in West German shipyards.

□ Tokyo. — Britain has called on Japan publicly to condemn Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands, but Japanese officials said privately that it would be difficult for Japan to join in economic sanctions against Argentina because it was friendly with both countries.

PARLIAMENT April 6 1982

PM knew about invasion fleet last Wednesday

FALKLANDS

The precise time at which the Prime Minister had information that an Argentine invasion fleet was on its way to the Falkland Islands was on Wednesday evening when the Government took action. Mrs Thatcher explained to the Commons.

She was persistently questioned by Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, about the precise time at which the Government took action. Mrs Thatcher explained to the Commons.

She was persistently questioned by Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, about the precise time at which the Government took action. Mrs Thatcher explained to the Commons.

Mr John Browne (Winchester, C) in the exchanges, said that his own actions over the Falkland Islands issue she has the overwhelming support of this House and of the nation. (Conservative cheers and some Labour laughter.)

Can she confirm whether or not our mission is to destroy the Argentine invasion fleet? If she cannot, will she say that she believes it possible or desirable, in the light of the long-term security interests of the Falkland Islands, to protect the exposed southern tip of the island, that a Nato base could be established in the Falklands?

Rule covers classroom work only

SOCIAL SECURITY

The Department of Health and Social Security had no intention of sending inspectors to students' homes to check whether they are doing their homework, Mr Anthony Newton, Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said in a statement.

Mr Newton: I am anxious to do nothing to inhibit young people from studying hard and using their time usefully.

Mr Newton: The Government is reviewing the details of the 21-hour rule in the light of the Chief Supplementary Benefit Officer's recent guidance on the interpretation of this regulation.

Our aim is to ensure that the 21-hour rule in the light of the Chief Supplementary Benefit Officer's recent guidance on the interpretation of this regulation.

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That is our task.

As for a Nato base in the Falklands, I do not think that would be well received. It is very, very far out of the Nato area.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Edw Vale, Lab): Has she been able to study this morning the reports in many newspapers, including *The Daily Telegraph*, which say that the statement that information about the attack was known in London ten days before?

This is a serious question. If that information is correct, and if it was received, what action was taken by the Government?

Mrs Thatcher: As I told the House on Saturday, even if it was received, what action was taken by the Government?

Mr Foot: Will she answer the immediate point? Questions of British intelligence are concerned in these matters and the House has a right to judge if British intelligence was operating properly and, if so, what action was taken.

Will she tell us if the information stated here was received? Whenever she might have been informed, she had the chance to look at such an accusation today and judge and tell the House and the country if such information as this was received at the time stated?

Mrs Thatcher: I have tried to help Mr Foot. (Labour interruptions.) If he will look at that report, the one on the front of the *Telegraph*, when he moved ships there. Their intent was not known. (Renewed interruptions.) This, I understand, is what *The Times* says.

We knew there were problems. Of course, we were dealing with them on South Georgia. The precise time at which we had information that it was an invasion fleet, and it was on Wednesday last week when we took action then. (Labour interruptions.)

I am trying to give accurate information. That is the situation of the South Georgia situation, which was a different matter.

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Browne: Nato base

Roberts: Help docks

that she took off the Argentine navy force, and we had understood that there were ships on the way for that, and when we understood that we also took certain dispositions.

Mr Foot: Will she answer the immediate point? Questions of British intelligence are concerned in these matters and the House has a right to judge if British intelligence was operating properly and, if so, what action was taken.

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landed at Leith, South Georgia, and refused to leave although they had not got proper immigration papers.

We were in touch with Buenos Aires and said that they must get proper clearance to be on our territory.

We knew there was a threat that if we took them off by force, the Argentine might well be stopped and there would be ships about which could do the stopping.

The precise threat to Port Stanley and the Falkland Islands came to me on Wednesday. I do not believe that there was a precise threat to Port Stanley as long before as he says.

Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C): The United Nations resolution was mandatory and the Argentine Government has not complied. Will she consider taking further action?

Mr Allan Roberts (Bottle, Lab): Will she consider the consequences of the Government's mismanagement of the crisis for quite a number of my constituents as 50 per cent of the trade with the Argentine goes through Liverpool Docks. That is likely to stop as a result of military action or sanctions — which I would support.

If that trade is stopped, will the Prime Minister make sure that the Argentine does not increase its result to the mismanagement of the Falklands crisis by this Government?

Mrs Thatcher: The extent of our exports to the Argentine has been reduced to a very small amount. I am not sure that it is a fair statement to say that the Argentine is not increasing its result to the mismanagement of the Falklands crisis by this Government.

Mr Roberts: I am not sure that it is a fair statement to say that the Argentine is not increasing its result to the mismanagement of the Falklands crisis by this Government.

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was to be invited to address both Houses of Parliament in the Royal Gallery. The programme was still under discussion and further details would be announced.

Mr Cress: Mrs Thatcher's attempt to use the visit of President Reagan to cover up for her falling position is widely regarded as an abuse of this House. (Conservative protests.)

Has she noted that even President Reagan has called for a peaceful resolution of the Falkland Islands crisis, without bloodshed? Since she is responsible in the final analysis for the conduct of her Government, she should be considering an early resignation to allow someone else to meet President Reagan.

Mrs Thatcher: I shall welcome President Reagan's visit to our senior Nato ally and powerful defender of liberty in the West and liberty throughout the world.

President Reagan, like most of us, would wish a peaceful solution in the Falkland Islands. We shall be very happy if anyone is able to secure a peaceful solution from the Falkland Islands and the restoration of British sovereignty and the restoration of the wishes of the people.

If anyone can do that, we shall warmly welcome their help. We regard resignation, no. Now the Prime Minister has said, 'I am taking over this affair'.

Welcoming whatever President Reagan can do to bring about a peaceful solution to the crisis in the Falkland Islands, will we and should not we all, keep in mind this difficult matter?

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Poland is given seven years to repay West

From Peter Norman, Frankfurt, April 6

The agreement rescheduling Poland's 1981 commercial bank debt was finally signed in the Frankfurt headquarters of the Dresdner Bank today, giving the Warsaw Government a breathing space in its struggle to deal with the country's crippling debt burden.

Poland is being given seven years to pay its 500 western bank creditors the \$2,400m (£1,350m) debt that it should have paid back in the last nine months of last year.

The agreement provides that repayment of 95 per cent of the debt will be suspended for four years before being paid back in seven equal six monthly instalments.

The remaining 5 per cent amounting to \$120m will be paid back in three three-monthly instalments this year beginning on May 15.

Poland will have to pay a high interest rate on the rescheduled debt of 1.75 per cent above the London interbank offered rate.

The signing ceremony took place four months behind schedule and more than a year after Poland first told its Western creditors that it would be unable to service its debt to the West totalling \$27,000m.

The agreement was held up because banks refused to sign until the Government in Warsaw had scratched together \$500m in interest that it should have paid by the beginning of December last year.

Today's ceremony was attended by representatives of 20 of Poland's international bank creditors and Mr Wotolod, the Polish Deputy Finance Minister, and Mr Marian Minkiewicz, the president of the Polish Handlowy Bank.

The task now facing the Polish delegation is to get negotiations started on the country's debt falling due this year and in subsequent years. The two men will be staying in Frankfurt after the ceremony to talk to bankers on the possibility of further rescheduling agreements.

The brief communiqué issued today by the Dresdner Bank said that negotiations between Poland and the Western banks on the 1982 principal payments should start as soon as possible. But the talks are likely to be fraught with difficulties as Poland needs new credits from the West if it is to service its debt falling due this year.

Western Governments are so far, because of martial law in the country, refusing to give the guarantees for new credits, which the banks say are essential if more money is to be lent to Poland.

The Dresdner Bank which has headed the international task force dealing with the Polish debt has created a special fund of about DM480m (\$280m) to cover its financial losses arising from its DM390m lending to Warsaw. Its Luxembourg subsidiary will become international agent for the rescheduled debt and hence be responsible for insuring that payments are made on time.

Chinese dilemma

Planners despair as birthrate creeps up

From David Bonavia, Peking, April 6

China's economic planners and birth control specialists have watched in dismay as the country's rate of population growth has ceased its downward trend and begun to creep up again over the past two years.

This is particularly serious because the 1980s are expected to see a baby boom caused by the rise in birthrate in the mid-1950s and the attainment of normal child-bearing age by the people born then.

A law on population control is being drafted, but until then officials in the rural areas, where most of the high population growth takes place, have no legal basis on which to enforce birth control.

They can use only administrative measures, such as financial penalties for families with too many children, and educational and social advantages for those who restrict their fertility voluntarily.

Nor are all the cadres enthusiastic about birth control. An official in the southern province of Guangdong has been expelled from the Communist Party and dismissed from his factory job because his wife had given birth to her seventh child.

The desire for sons has been increased by the economic reform in the rural areas over the past two or three years under which peasants have more freedom to farm the land for profit as families are encouraged to have more children and especially more sons.

Population control was only adopted as official policy in 1971, having been resisted by some of the older generation of leaders on the grounds that the population was a capital asset. Nor is classic Marxism helpful over this: it regards population as a force of production.

There is still a fundamental debate in specialist and ruling circles as to the causes of over population and the means of reducing it. One school holds that it will naturally decline once economic performance and living standards are improved.

The other school, the dominant one, argues that this takes too long, and that excess population prevents rises in living standards. One factor, it is asserted, is the high birthrate in the rural areas, which has risen from 2.34 per cent in 1971 to 1.17 per cent in 1979, started rising again in 1980 and reached 1.2 per cent again last year.

The optimum population for China, judged by the United Nations, is assessed at between six and eight hundred million, but a total population of 1,300 million is expected by the end of this century.

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Haig rejects freeze on nuclear arms

Washington, April 6. — Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, said today that a proposed freeze on new nuclear weapons would put Western civilization at risk and increase the likelihood of global devastation.

In the most comprehensive statement so far of the Reagan Administration's nuclear arms policy, Mr Haig said the non-communist world must reject a freeze and avoid the prospect of nuclear catastrophe and nuclear blackmail.

"By maintaining the military balance and sustaining deterrence, we protect the essential values of Western civilization," he said.

Mr Haig's remarks, in a speech at the Georgetown University Centre for Strategic and International Studies, was the Administration's latest effort to counter growing calls for a halt to the arms race.

Mr Richard Perle Assistant Defence Secretary said last week that a freeze at existing levels, as proposed by 175 members of Congress, would lock in Soviet superiority and reduce prospects for arms reductions.

The Administration has also been trying to regain the initiative in world public opinion that American officials concede has been captured by President Brezhnev in recent weeks.

President Reagan called for dramatic reductions in nuclear arms in a press conference last week and at another session with reporters yesterday he invited

the Soviet leader to meet him in New York this summer to discuss arms control.

But Mr Reagan's comments, particularly his claim that Moscow has gained clear nuclear superiority, sparked new criticism from arms control advocates.

Mr Haig today rejected calls for a freeze, for renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons and for submitting to Soviet demands rather than risking nuclear war, a position popularly known as "better red than dead".

A western pledge against using nuclear weapons first would be "a major step towards conventional aggression," he said.

"If the West were to allow Moscow the freedom to choose the level of conflict which most suited it and to leave us subject to Soviet discretion the nature and timing of any escalation, we would be forced to maintain conventional forces at least at the level of those of the Soviet Union and its allies," he said.

He repeated administration arguments that freezing American and Soviet nuclear arsenals at existing levels would perpetuate an unstable and unequal military balance, reward a decade of unilateral Soviet buildup and remove all incentives to engage in meaningful arms control designed to cut armaments and reduce the risk of war.

Western deterrence, he said, depended upon its ability even after suffering a huge nuclear blow to prevent an aggressor from securing military advantage.

A pledge not to use nuclear weapons first would also require military conscription, the tripling of American armed forces and putting the economy on a wartime footing to counterbalance the Soviet conventional advantages.

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Embrace of leaders: Señor Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, during a private audience with the Pope yesterday.

Move to close PLO office in Paris

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, April 6

The assassination of a member of the Israeli embassy in Paris on Saturday, coming after a recrudescence of terrorist attacks against Jewish organizations in the past few months, has brought increasing pressure on the French Government to close down the liaison and information office of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

This was opened in October, 1975, and its staff does not enjoy any special or diplomatic status; but its head, being on the Arab diplomatic list, does have

mentioned the closing down of the PLO representation. But a few hours later the Israeli Embassy denied this. The ambassador had submitted no written demand to this effect, but had done so verbally.

Several thousand people demonstrated last night outside the PLO office in the district of Passy, in response to a call of the League Against Racism, and of leading Jewish organizations. These were no incidents, although the atmosphere was tense.

"Reasonably, I cannot see what would have been its interest in the assassination," he said. He added that Mr Meir Rosenne, the Israeli Ambassador, who called on him today had not

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Doubts emerge on Gibraltar border

From Harry Debelius Madrid, April 6

Reassuring words from the ruling centre party's foreign policy spokesman sen Javier Ruperez failed to dispel doubts in Madrid today on whether the border would reopen as scheduled in two weeks.

Madrid newspapers said that a toughening of the British position on the de-colonization of Gibraltar could be expected after the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands. They also pointed out that Mr Francis Pym, the new Foreign Secretary, would have little time to devote to the Gibraltar question until the Falklands issue was resolved one way or another.

Señor Ruperez took an optimistic view in an interview broadcast by the state-run Radio Nacional today saying: "As far as the Spanish Government is concerned, there is a will to go ahead with those negotiations, which imply the lifting of Spanish restrictions on Gibraltar on the one hand, and on the other hand, talks about all the Gibraltar-related problems, including the question of sovereignty."

"I think it is in the interest of the British Government itself to maintain the rhythm of the negotiations, the calendar and the time spans which were worked out some time ago with Spain about Gibraltar."

The independent newspaper El Pais and the monarchist ABC both speculated that the Falklands developments might lead to a postponement of the restoration of land communications between Gibraltar and the rest of the Iberian Peninsula on April 20.

Señor Carlos Mendo, the former London Correspondent of El Pais, remarked that recent progress on the Gibraltar issue was the result of personal contacts between Señor Jose Pedro Perez, Llorca, the Spanish Foreign Minister and Lord Carrington, the former Foreign Secretary.

Señor Mendo also said that the "hypersensitivity of British public opinion at this moment, bordering on hysteria in some communications media" could be expected to inhibit Whitehall in talks aimed at a recovery by Spain of sovereignty over the Rock.

In a front-page commentary, accompanying a photograph of Royal Navy ships leaving Portsmouth, ABC said that even if the British Government decides to go ahead with the scheduled talks in Lisbon on Gibraltar, "it will be up to the Spanish Government to decide whether there is a chance that the encounters might be fruitful."

Leading article in El Pais raised the question whether it was really in Spain's interests to go ahead with the plan. "Would it not be more advisable," the newspaper said "temporarily to suspend the operation until things settle down."

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"I think it is in the interest of the British Government itself to maintain the rhythm of the negotiations, the calendar and the time spans which were worked out some time ago with Spain about Gibraltar."

The independent newspaper El Pais and the monarchist ABC both speculated that the Falklands developments might lead to a postponement of the restoration of land communications between Gibraltar and the rest of the Iberian Peninsula on April 20.

Señor Carlos Mendo, the former London Correspondent of El Pais, remarked that recent progress on the Gibraltar issue was the result of personal contacts between Señor Jose Pedro Perez, Llorca, the Spanish Foreign Minister and Lord Carrington, the former Foreign Secretary.

Señor Mendo also said that the "hypersensitivity of British public opinion at this moment, bordering on hysteria in some communications media" could be expected to inhibit Whitehall in talks aimed at a recovery by Spain of sovereignty over the Rock.

In a front-page commentary, accompanying a photograph of Royal Navy ships leaving Portsmouth, ABC said that even if the British Government decides to go ahead with the scheduled talks in Lisbon on Gibraltar, "it will be up to the Spanish Government to decide whether there is a chance that the encounters might be fruitful."

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World on brink of war, says Gandhi

Delhi, April 6. — Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, said today that the global situation was out of control and that the world was "on the brink" of war.

"No country however powerful feels secure today," she told a political convention in Jammu, Kashmir. She blamed the international arms race.

Mrs Gandhi said that the Prime Minister of an "important country" had told her that while nobody wanted war, it was possible that everyone would get involved if one broke out. She was apparently referring to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, whom she met last month in London.

In another speech Mrs Gandhi told Army troops that India needed to be so strong that no one would dare attack it, and that "even if this was done, we should be in a position to repel such an attack." — AP.

Mr Charan Singh, aged 80, the former Indian Prime Minister, who now heads the opposition Lok Dal Party, today announced his decision to retire from "active political life". He told the Press Trust of India: "I have been thinking of retiring from active political life for the last two years or so, but my friends would not release me. I have, however, now taken a decision to this effect."

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TAKE PRIDE IN PRECISION

Britain opposes EEC workers' rights plan

From Ian Murray, Brussels, April 6

Britain stood out alone today against proposals for a Community-wide scheme intended to give workers in multinational companies the right to consultation and employment protection.

An informal meeting of employment ministers in Brussels took a preliminary look at the idea. While most countries wanted to await Parliament's decision on the matter, Mr Norman Tebbit, the British Minister, made it clear that legally binding measures on the subject were contrary to the approach of his Government.

Mr Tebbit said that the Government favoured good relations between management and employees, and considered that voluntary guidelines such as those laid down by the International Labour Organisation and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development were sufficient. Britain did not like legal compulsion in this area.

The British Government had no objection to individual countries' introducing national legislation of this kind, but he believed it was not something to be imposed on all member states.

France, which is in the process of drawing up legislation of this kind, said that experience proved that voluntary standards were not observed unless they were supported by law.

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Television

Paternal powers

Last night was Authority Night. Young Arnold in QED (BBC 1) could not get enough of it and was serio-comically instructed in the New Life-manship of power by figures as old as Macbeth and as new as John T. (Dress for Success) Molloy. Pope John Paul II (Everyman, BBC 1) was perhaps grabbing back too much — not for himself, the distinction was made clear, but for his office. Whistling Wally (Play for Today, BBC 1) had given up the authority of a father in order to make the lads in the pub laugh and forget the awfulness of their lives in the rolling mill, whilst everyone wanted a great deal more authority — else they already possessed in abundance, this being the West Coast of America — in Desmond Morris's new series, The Human Race (Thames).

Best of all is to be a Californian bishop and dress in the clothes of the European Counter-Reformation, that way you not only reach the altar untroubled down a broad division of the devout and get to christen the baby or confirm the child, but you are, Dr Morris told us, invested with the Authority of Time. Which brings us back to the Pope.

Despite a trick of speaking about the media as if it were a distasteful social disease, Peter France's Everyman patch, Peter France's doctrinal summary of Karel Wojtyla was instructive and sharp, the best programme of the night. The silliest, by far, was The Human Race, whose ingredients — freeways, tits, Vivaldi, bums, drums and sunset over the Bay — became as predictable as its analogies between primitive and sophisticated human and animal behaviour. Now seem glib, dated and banal.

QED, also new last night, should turn out less homogenized since it aims to popularize general science, medicine and technology in a different way each week: the first programme was fun, but fey. Wally K. Daly's play was unsentimental and touching: the pub clown died of cancer, and the son grew up in the days around the death. The message was that of Stewie Barstow and Elaine get out now, even if you come back later, and the boy died. Well acted by Mark Botham and Kenneth Farrington; producer, James Lloyd, director, Gerald Blake.

Michael Ratcliffe

Cinema

A creation of mankind

'Quest for Fire', already with cult status in the United States, opens in London tomorrow. George Perry interviews its director and investigates the extraordinary problems of location shooting

"For years I have wanted to do a film about mankind's start — the last lap before modern man," says Jean-Jacques Annaud, director of Quest for Fire. His film opens in London tomorrow after success in Annand's native Paris, and the United States, where it has assumed an immediate cult status. Prehistory has attracted film-makers for a long time, but rarely seriously. "I looked at several — Raquel Welch with the dinosaurs in One Million Years BC and Prehistoric Women in their leather bikinis walking through a Shopperton forest." Annaud has used a novel by J. H. Rousy Senior, published in France in 1911, as the basis of his film, which attempts to conjure up a realistic paleolithic Europe 30,000 years ago, with vast, untamed plains and mountain ranges, swamps and dense forests, where herds of mammoths and sabre-toothed tigers are still extant, sharing existence with humans in various stages of development.

"Gérard Brach [Polanski's screenwriter on many films from Knife in the Water onwards], and I agreed that the book, as it stood, was a disaster, and we quickly left it behind. But there was something in it I loved — this sense of prehistoric fear."

"It's like science fiction without the technology, but with the feelings. Hardly anything is known of these early men, it is not hard to see that those with intelligence could win and survive. Possession of fire meant the ability to make metal tools, to cease to be primitive. There was something mystical about the flame. Once they had it they would keep it going for years — it mustn't die."

"Brach and Annaud asked Anthony Burgess to devise a language for the film, so that the actors communicate in real words, rather than grunts. Burgess applied himself to the task of creating a prehistoric philology, with relish. Similarly, Desmond Morris was asked

to choreograph an appropriate body language, eliminating modern gestures. The actors are as yet little-known, and are as likely to be recognized in the street after this film as Daryl Valley, Everett McGill, who plays the leader, Naoh, Ron Perlman, the less bright Amoukar, and Nameer El-Kadi, the gentlest Kaw, spent up to three hours each day before filming, having models later face masks applied to give their features an ape-like aspect. Perlman, a wry New Yorker, comments: "They stayed put, even in 115 degree heat, but it was murder if you had an itch. And you couldn't sweat through them. At the end of the day when they took them off there would be about a litre of perspiration inside."

Initially, the film was to have been shot in Iceland and Kenya, but a management shift at Columbia caused them to drop the project. Another company, Twentieth Century-Fox, picked it up but the Screen Actors' Guild strike foiled production. With changes of key personnel it then became a French-Canadian project (some scenes were actually shot in the case of Canada and Scotland was substituted for Iceland. For months the cast faced conditions ranging from the bone-rattling chill of the Cairngorms to the baking heat of a Kenyan soda lake, in the case of the girl, Rae Dawn Chong, a coat of grey paint with chipmunk stripes.

"If Jean-Jacques wants us to act miserable then he believes that the circumstances must be miserable," says Perlman after a hard day at Lake Magadi, near the Tamsania border. "It's very easy to find oneself making a modern gesture when you're barefoot on needle-sharp rocks."

"To get spontaneity from the actors," says Annaud, "we use a long lens for much of the time. Technique kills art. They are enough away that they are not aware of the technique. I wanted them to feel free. This is not a film



Naoh (left), Gaw and Amoukar (Everett McGill, Nameer El-Kadi and Ron Perlman) take refuge from a tiger

with elaborate special effects — the lab technique did not fit the picture. The pleasure as a director comes from directing good actors and the editing.

"The hardest part was shooting with animals, particularly the elephants," Jimmy Chipperfield rounded up a number of circus elephants who were dispatched to the Scottish highlands and given hair-pieces and lengthy tusks to simulate mammoths. They were a disaster. On the first day they charged the wrong way, destroying the camera tent. Fourteen elephants trampled on the equipment boxes containing cameras, lenses, filters, spares worth thousands, and miraculously (a great tribute to Samuelson's cases) not a single one was broken. On the second day again they went in an unexpected direction, straight into a morass, and one of their number nearly drowned. Filming was at a standstill while a hundred people tried to work out how to extricate an elephant from a Scottish bog, scarcely an everyday problem. On the third day the recalcitrant creatures attacked their costumes and tore their furry rugs off. On the fourth day they ran on past the camera and stamped the wardrobe

ent, much to the discomfort of those within, sheltering from the cold. Eventually the scene was completed in Canada.

Annaud is 38, infectious enthusiasm, at his best when the going is rough. He likes to regard himself as Alan Parker and Ridley Scott. Like them he was a highly successful director of television commercials. He dropped his lucrative career at roughly the same time as they did and moved into features. His first, a satire on war, was a colonialism in Africa, Black and White in Colour, won an Academy Award. His second was Coup de Tête, a send-up of bourgeois hypocrisy in a small French town. Quest for Fire is only his third film; he does not believe in churning them out.

"A very busy director will do a film a year. I'll do one every three. I believe in staying very close to my work — I think that must be a European attitude. I cannot plan out my career a long way ahead. In a way I admire people who can write another film while they are shooting one. Even as we sit here in this Nairobi restaurant at dinner, the only thing I have in the forefront of my mind is the scene that I shall be shooting tomorrow."

Beyond the Footlights

Lyric, Hammersmith

The Cambridge Footlights supply a perennial exception to the rule that lightning never strikes twice in the same place; and this constitutes a perennial hazard to each new generation of undergraduate entertainers emerging from the university stage only to be told they are not as good as Jack Hulbert, Jonathan Miller or John Cleese.

There is nothing in this show that tempts you to predict a glittering theatrical future for any of the five members of the company, but jointly their personalities and separate skills do form an effective company, and — an unusual merit in Oxbridge revue — they spend at least as much time in making fun of themselves as in having a jolly good old snarl at the world outside.

A strong sense of unjustified privilege runs through the show, as in Emma Thompson's hippophilic envy of working-class children who go to day schools and thus escape being separated from their ponies for three whole months, and Hugh Laurie's description of the

ideological torment he went through before accepting a whacking grant from the UGC. They even have a heartfelt blues on lacking anything to feel blue about.

Frequent projections of the placid Cambridge scene, together with a hulking teddy bear baring its teeth onstage, serve as a constant reminder that the five know where they are at and feel uneasy about it and when they move out of this cocoon it is with the knowledge of what they have learnt inside it.

The various boss figures bulging at the seams of industry are built up from the model of a tutor who cannot remember a student's surname but finds it deeply suspicious that his friends call him Kim. It is only one move from this collegiate ogre to the beaming executive who has just published a pamphlet on "Sacking for Pleasure", and the Cabinet resolution to dispatch Edward Fox to sort out the Argentines.

The specialist in top dogs is Stephen Fry, a harmless lanky figure who seems built for nothing more energetic than pouring out dry sherries, but who possesses an unnerving gift for repeating back harmless remarks as damaging admissions and allowing a charming smile to

freeze into a hangman's smirk.

The other theme running through the show is that of Victorian parody, as with an amended version of Dracula (the castle door is opened by a ghoul called Travolta), and a Dickensian last chapter where the orphaned heroine is reunited with her fatherly protector who briskly orders her down to the kitchens. These are mildly amusing as an education debate conducted in Unwinisms, a stream-of-consciousness chess match and a running gag featuring a sculpture called "Conversation Piece" which strikes its viewers dumb.

However, with the exception of the concluding Ayckbour charade, there is nothing you could call hilarious; and too much nonsense dialogue and joke pronunciation. Emma Thompson, the most versatile of the team, makes up for their musical deficiency. Though, having said that, I must record Robert Bathurst's number "I want to shoot somebody famous" as the one item where the show breaks out of its undergraduate shell to say something direct and frightening about the life beyond it.

Irving Wardle

Theatre

Unjustified privilege

Polish CO/ Maksymuk

Barbican Hall

Within a short while, Jerry Maksymuk and his Polish Chamber Orchestra have established themselves as firm favourites here, through records and visits. It is good to hear them so soon in the new Barbican Hall where they are playing two programmes. On Monday they are playing two programmes. On Monday they are playing two programmes. On Monday they are playing two programmes.

Except that the harpichord continuo gave, for my taste, rather too discreet support to his string colleagues, the performance of Handel's A major Concerto Grosso from the Op 6 set, typified Maksymuk's musicianship.

The soft movement, was boldly dapper, almost foppish, yet so exactly controlled as to remain always well-mannered. The fugue, always its music in sharp exhilarating focus. The violin solo passages were exquisitely delivered by Jan Stanienda, as if to say "Trump that, Yehudi!"

On came Menuhin to play three concertos from Vivaldi's celebrated Op 8, and out came the trumpets. Menuhin excels in music which he has known for a long time, but does not often play at concerts; he loves it especially if it is difficult, as much in these concertos as Maksymuk did not allow him

Concerts

to dawdle, but Menuhin was game, and gave us classical violin playing to clean the ears and ravish the senses.

His technique was tested to the full in the finale of the eleventh concerto in D, but he held his own (he even encouraged two movements). His musicianship was heard at its greatest in the C minor concerto called "Sospetto", whose manner closely approaches J. S. Bach. There was never a moment when Menuhin's audibility was in doubt, in a hall where soloists are supposed still to be acoustically underprivileged.

William Mann

Perlman/Canino

Festival Hall

When the C major Fantasy, D934, for violin and piano had its first performance, in Vienna in 1828, the year of Schubert's death, a newspaper critic wrote: "The hall gradually emptied and your correspondent admits that he, too, is unable to say how this piece finished." Well, Itzhak Perlman and Bruno Canino played it on Monday, and, like everyone else in the Festival Hall, I stayed until the end.

Though not well known, its Deutsch number indicates that the Fantasy was written in proximity to such works as the Winterreise song cycle and E flat Piano Trio. But after a characteristically poetic introduction played with great purity on this occasion, this is a quite different proposition. In place of, say, the private griefs of Winterreise, there is a grandiose brilliance, a Schubert in fact composed it for Josef Slavik, whom Chopin later called "a second Paganini".

Max Harrison

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Opera

The Force of Destiny

Dominion

Whether it be destiny, accident or coincidence that plots the moves in the operatic narrative, it can only seek narrative, through Verdi's music. For various reasons this was far from being achieved when the Welsh National Opera decided to open the Festival of Opera with it on Monday.

Odd to announce it as La forza del destino when it is sung in English, although I should have remembered that its East German producer, Joachim Herz, prefers opera always to be given in the language of its audience. Presumably in this case he is anxious for the political message to get across having altered (with consent) some passages in Andrew Porter's translation so as to give it not only "social relevance" but a racialist slant which is seen to be reinforced by the casting.

It cannot be said to help much, for both the black tenor Moises Farkas, as Don Alvaro, and the white baritone Norman Phillips, as the vengeful Don Carlos, sounded greatly overstrained by the vocal demands, especially in their confrontations. The tenor was at least their inadequate for these particular roles called in question such a choice of opera for the Welsh company's repertoire.

Richard Armstrong's conducting was a redeeming feature, giving the music its required breadth and spirit, and drawing a notably good orchestral response. Elizabeth Vaughan had the measure of Leonora in vocal character, though not in sustained line: her scene with Don Garrard's splendid Father Superior was the highlight of a performance which, as a warning to the unwary, runs more than two hours before the first (and only) interval, shoved in the middle of Act III.

For much of this time I thought the production held the sprawling narrative together quite well in spite of generally dull design. Thereafter, chorus singing the excellent chorale, the excellent chorus singing the excellent chorale, the excellent chorus singing the excellent chorale.

Noël Goodwin

Dance

Nureyev's Paris

When Rudolf Nureyev walks into the Paris Opera office at the Paris Opera in September next year he will be taking on one of the most difficult, but potentially rewarding, jobs to be found in the world of dance today. One of the oldest companies in Europe, the ballet of the Paris Opera can trace its foundation back to 1661. It has also proved in recent years to be one of the hardest to direct and, since the resignation of Serge Lifar in 1959, has seen a succession of directors, few of whom have lasted for more than a few years.

Throughout its history, which in the last decade has included at least one closure, and any number of strikes by both dancers and technicians, the dancers have maintained an astonishingly high level of technical attainment since London audiences when the company visits Covent Garden in July this year. What it has lacked since the departure of Lifar in 1959 is a leader with strong backing, and with adequate resources to cope with the byzantine intrigues of the rigidly structured house. Nureyev, it is widely thought, will carry this kind of authority and has worked

previously with the incoming administrator, Massimo Bogdanovich.

His contract runs for three years, starting with the 1982-83 season (Rosella Hightower, the outgoing director, whose resignation is effective from July this year, has agreed to stay on for one further season). Nureyev's contract requires him to be in the company for 180 days, roughly half the year, about 40 times each season.

He will be responsible for staging or choreographing one new production each year, and in a recent conversation he indicated that these were likely to be standard classical works. Likely stagings are his own productions of The Nutcracker and Romeo and Juliet. He also has in mind new productions of Swan Lake, but for this, rather than importing the production he made for the ballet of the Vienna Staatsoper, he spoke of mounting a version as close as possible to the 1895 Petipa original.

Another condition he has insisted on is the continuance of the regular seasons outside the Opera which have been a feature of High-tower's regime.

Judith Cruickshank

Art Blakey

Ronnie Scott's

To most bandleaders, the problem of replacing the prodigious Marsalis brothers, whose own ensemble made its bow in New York last week, would have been terrifying. For Art Blakey, however, it is merely another chapter in the history of the Jazz Messengers since 1954; wisely, he uses such goings and comings to maintain the group in a constant state of creative alertness.

The holdovers from the Messengers who so memorably visited Frith Street towards the end of last year are Bill Pierce, the tenor saxophonist whose gravity and self-possession never distill into mere solemnity, and whose ideas are so complex as to suggest those of Warne Marsh translated to a hard-bop context, and Charles Fambrough, now perhaps the best double-bassist of his kind, who is so sure that he can walk a 4/4 with huge authority and considerable imagination.

To fill the gaps in the front

Jazz

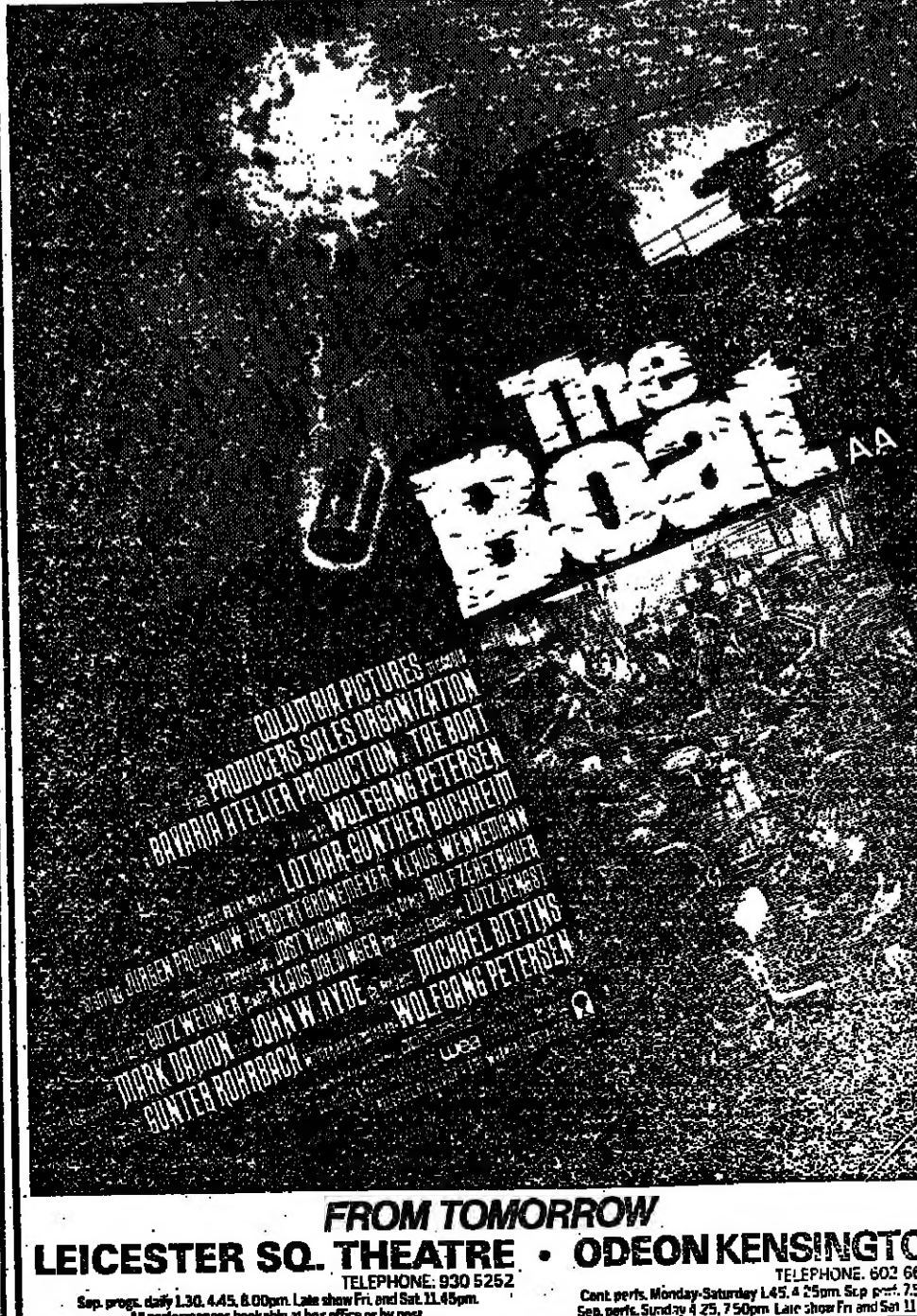
line left by the departing

Marsalises, Blakey has gone to the same source: the trumpeter Terry Blanchard and the alto saxophonist Donald Harrison are both young men from New Orleans, and although it would be devaluing recent (and carefully chosen) superlatives to compare them favourably with their immediate predecessors, they give the same impression of being all gassed up and ready to burn rubber.

Blanchard has some of Wynnton Marsalis's audacity, tempered with a likable diffidence; his momentum splutters sometimes, but ideas cartwheel off at unexpected tangents. At the moment, Harrison is the more interesting player; he has a big, commanding tone, full of life, and allows a careering up-tempo line to splinter into seemingly opposed but brilliantly linked fragments. Together with Pierce, they maintain throughout the unit's outstanding repertoire the sense of barely suppressed ensemble power which was a hallmark of the last line-up.

Richard Williams

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WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS

While British ships steam south through the Atlantic and the Argentines continue their efforts to fortify the islands there will be a great deal of diplomatic activity. Among other things, Britain and Argentina will be trying to rally support for their case. But it will also be a good time to consider not only what should be done when the task force reaches the Falklands but also what Britain hopes to achieve thereafter.

The immediate objective is quite clear. It is to reverse the fait accompli imposed on the islands last Friday, and in the process to show General Galtieri that such naked acts of aggression are wholly unacceptable. That is of the greatest importance. There are small countries and territories in many parts of the world, not least in Latin America itself which would be at risk if it was felt that the generals in Buenos Aires had got away with this invasion. They chose to send troops against a small and defenceless people, the citizens of a country with which they had apparently friendly relations and with which they were holding negotiations for a peaceful settlement.

But once an Argentine withdrawal has been achieved, either through diplomacy or by force, what still leaves the Falklands. Do we want to maintain them indefinitely as a British possession, comparable to an Isle of Man 8,000 miles away, regardless of the

cost? Or do we take the view that in the long run they are too far away and too unimportant, and that they should therefore be based into some sort of congenial relationship with Argentina? The second course is the one which has been followed in recent years by both Conservative and Labour governments. It led to a situation in which the islands were very much dependent on the good will of Argentina, even before last Friday's attack. Apart from a ship which sailed from Tilbury four times a year, the only regular communications with the outside world were the weekly flights to and from Comodoro Rivadavia provided by the Argentine Air Force.

That was not a bad policy in itself. Admittedly it had the disadvantage of giving General Galtieri and his colleagues the impression that the British government was anxious to be rid of the Falklands, which may have encouraged them to miscalculate. But the miscalculation was not an inevitable result of the policy. If the British government had shown at an earlier stage that it was determined to defend the islands there could still have been progress.

Much will now depend on the circumstances in which, if all goes well, the Argentines are induced to depart. If they have been humiliated, they will remain uncooperative for some time. Britain will then have to maintain an active defence of the islands against

a possible new attempt at invasion, and also replace the services which were provided by Argentina before the invasion. It can be done. But it would be an expensive commitment to maintain over a long period.

At some point, therefore, it will be necessary to try to restore links between the islands and Argentina. This will not be easy, especially if there has been fighting. Obviously diplomatic relations would have to be restored first. But it would not be the first time in history that a showdown, whether diplomatic or military, had clarified a relationship and in the period of reconstruction provided a more realistic basis for negotiation. At all times, however, we would have to face up to the possibility that such attempts would be unsuccessful. Our future policy for the Falklands can never again be allowed to depend on an Argentine veto.

It is not too early to look ahead in this way, even though the immediate future is murky. Britain did not seek or provoke a conflict with Argentina and has no wish for a long period of hostility. It must assert its rights and the principles of international law without compromise but at the same time it should make clear its desire to return as soon as possible to normal relations with Argentina. This can be achieved only if the Argentines have the same aim. The burden of proof now lies with them.

WHO'S AFRAID OF A BIG BAD BALLOT?

Of all the days of the year to select to beat the drum for a national campaign which has been slow to catch fire, Monday must have been among the most unlucky. With the fleet sailing off to glory and ministers tumbling, the country had little attention to spare for the metaphorical militancy on display at the TUC's special conference on the Employment Bill. "There will be risks, there may be casualties, we may get knocked, but we will give as good as we get," declared Mr Murray with native caution setting his sights before battle rather than the other way round.

The programme of action against the Bill, agreed with acclaim by all but a few of the unions represented, is also anything but bloodthirsty. The TUC General Council drafted it with concern not to encourage the movement's aircraft carriers to steer outside the territorial waters of legality. This showed good sense, but can have done little to persuade ordinary trade unionists with more urgent anxieties about the security of their jobs that the proposed reforms seriously amount to "a manifesto for a union-free society", as Mr Murray put it. He rejected a policy of using industrial action to bring a government down undemocratically. Other speakers, like Mr Arthur Scargill and Mr Joe Wade disregarded his lead and spoke unthinkingly about the possibility of breaking the law in the struggle against the Bill. Major campaigns of industrial action against it, as

advocated by a number of delegates, would be illegal within the terms of the Bill itself, even if not of the existing laws on political strikes and secondary action. The Bill is deftly drafted to minimise the need for active union co-operation: it will exist and influence their calculations and actions whether they like it or not, and even if employers prove reluctant, as they often may, to go to court on the strength of its provisions.

The prevailing atmosphere made Mr Murray sound pallid, and the voices which urged the dangers of a long and costly campaign embarked on without strong rank and file support were few and faint. One of the most revealing phrases of the day came when Mr Murray described the Bill as an attempt to drive a wedge between unions and their members. Some of its provisions, in particular those designed to encourage unions to test by ballot whether existing closed shops still command support among members, can indeed claim to be so. But a rift has been driven into it, and the popularity of the closed shop, as well as of other equally rough and ready means of imposing union discipline, is widespread inside the movement as well as out. It is a standing reproach to the trade unions that the abandonment of such practices should need to wait for a nudge from legislation.

The truth is that the Bill is

modest in its scope and its likely effects. While this hampers the campaign to present it as a threat to trade unionism as such, it also means that many reforms which would still further improve accountability have been omitted. Only last week, Mr Norman Tebbit said that his mind was not fully closed to the possibility of adding a clause to encourage the use of strike ballots in place of the factory-gate votes which are so easily manipulated. Balloting for union elections is a reform whose effects might be even more profound. Even where it does occur, balloting today is too often inadequately supervised. In the short term, legislation on these matters might tend to add them to the category of things that trade unionists refuse to see any good in because Mr Tebbit favours them. It might also increase the scope for calculated defiance and the creation of martyrs; but nothing would do more to make the movement more truly representative. The longer term, advantages would thus be manifest. If the trade union leadership wants to claim that it truly represents its members, it would be more convincing if it did not object to measures which would provide evidence for their claims. Of course they fear the evidence would undermine their claim, and thus their leadership. Let us have the evidence by introducing much more provision for balloting, both about strikes, and about leadership.

Postal watchdog

From the Chairman of the Post Office Users' National Council
Sir, In his observations on the Government's consultative document on consumers' interest and the nationalised industries (article, March 15), Mr Alex Henney, Chairman of the London Electricity Consultative Council, bemoans the absence of any proposals to give arbitration powers on the nationalised industry consumer councils.
It is arguable whether the duty of arbitration is one which is proper to a consumer council. I think it is not. The council acts principally as an advocate of the consumer's case. It could not easily act as arbiter as well. Customers would be entitled to question the extent of the commitment to representing their interests.

The issue does not however arise for users of Post Office and British Telecom services. Under the Codes of Practice for Postal and Telecommunications Services published in 1979, customers may pursue unresolved claims for redress through a scheme of arbitration operated independently by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Whilst the arbitrator's recommendations were not legally binding, both parties declared that they would normally be honour bound to accept them.

Under the British Telecommunications Act 1981, the Post Office's legal liability has been extended to cover most things lost or damaged in the inland post. We have recently successfully concluded negotiations with the Post Office and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators which provide for a scheme of legally binding arbitration to match the industry's new legal liabilities.

This offers customers seeking redress a cheap and simple way of raising disputes avoiding the need to make a personal appearance at a court. We are about to start discussions with British Telecom aimed at similar arrangements in respect of their legal liabilities under the BT Act. We consider these arbitration facilities are an important feature of the machinery for dealing with customers' complaints and are pleased to have had some part in establishing them.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MORGAN, Chairman,
Post Office Users' National Council,
Waterloo Bridge House,
Waterloo Road, SE1.

Ecosystems

From Professor C. D. Pigott
Sir, Your correspondent Dr A. S. Thomas (March 17) in his strongly worded criticism of the term ecosystem shows that he does not understand its meaning. Perhaps he has forgotten, or perhaps never read, the article written by Sir Arthur Tansley in 1935 in which the word was introduced and defined with admirable clarity.

Tansley proposed the word to describe a particular level of organization of natural systems in which vegetation, animals and the physical environment are linked together by the transfer of energy and materials. Tansley recognized the difficulty of defining the boundaries of ecosystems for, in a sense, the world is an ecosystem, but he proposed that the term was more usefully applied to those much smaller systems in which net transfer of material across the boundaries is minimal.

For example, in an unexploited woodland the amount of carbon dioxide fixed by the plants may, over a period of a year, be balanced by the amount released by respiration of all the organisms in the woodland, so that net transfer in fact, diffusive mixing of the gas in the atmosphere means that most ecosystems share a common reservoir.

Uptake of phosphate by the plants of the woodland may be almost entirely from the supply provided by decay, so that in this case the system may be virtually self-contained. Animals may indeed move in and out of the woodland yet their population averaged over a number of years may remain more or less constant. Ecosystems are not entirely self-contained, or "closed", and never could be because all depend on an input of solar energy and the eventual dissipation of this energy as heat.

By repeatedly using the word "may" I am, in fact, drawing attention to the value of recognizing ecosystems. By analysis of their structure and by measurement of the amounts of substances in their parts and of the rates of transfer the extent to which the system is in balance can be discovered. This provides essential information for the sensible exploitation of ecosystems, allowing their structure to be scaled and their productivity maintained or even increased. An ecosystem is even an ecosystem even when it is not in equilibrium.
Yours faithfully,
DONALD PIGOTT,
Department of Biological Sciences,
The University,
Lancaster,
March 25.

Glue-sniffing and solvent abuse

From Mr N. C. MacDonald
Sir, Mr Allan Roberts, MP (Leicester, April 1) is following a path trodden by many politicians, in this country and overseas, in believing that the use of aversive additives in solvent-based products will eliminate or control solvent abuse.

To be acceptable any additive must meet three criteria. It should not enhance in any way the health risk of the preparation to which it is added. It should not interfere with the acceptability of a preparation by those who will use it. Finally, any additive should not detract from service performance of the preparation, and in this case we mean the adhesive strength.

My company has investigated the whole use of aversive additives, and volatile organic chemicals with characteristic nauseating odours are most commonly thought of in this connection; allyl isothiocyanate, which occurs naturally as a component of oil of mustard, has been used in adhesives in certain parts of the United States.

All evidence indicates that substances of this type are either ineffective at safe levels of use or have only a transient aversive effect at higher or more dangerous concentrations, as well as interfering with the normal use and performance of the adhesive to which they are added. In West Germany another type of so-called aversive agent was added to a solvent-based product as a panic reaction to an outbreak of solvent abuse in West Berlin. The result was an increase in the incidence of toxicity amongst sniffers.

To suggest, as Mr Roberts does, that there is a paucity of information on the subject is to misrepresent the facts. My company's research has revealed around 300 references from many authoritative sources in this country and others.

At the same time we in the industry continue our search to develop alternative systems which are intrinsically safer from abuse and I would stress that this positive approach to the problem has been receiving attention in my company for several years. I should be glad to discuss with you the whole of the Government's argument for the deployment of the Trident missile system is that we should be in a position to deter a would-be aggressor.

It does not require much imagination to visualise a situation in which England, deprived of any form of nuclear deterrent, could be blackmailed and occupied by a foreign Power. This situation could only be hastened if Michael Foot's "unilateral disarmament" policies were carried out.

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That is only our domestic situation. The NUJ operates many closed shops abroad, including several in national newspapers, and in none of them could Mr Farmer find evidence to substantiate his allegations. Yours, JACOB ECCLESTONE, Deputy General Secretary, National Union of Journalists, 314-320 Gray's Inn Road, WC1, April 5.

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35A Jermyn Street,
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There is no immediate contradiction, therefore, between the Union and the preferred wish of the main Northern Ireland political parties to move in the direction of devolution.

Government failings in Falklands crisis

From General Sir Robert Ford (ret'd)
Sir, Looked at from the outside, but with some knowledge and experience of the workings of the machinery of government over a long period, it is difficult to come to any other conclusion than that the present tragedy in the Falkland Islands is largely the result of gross crisis mismanagement.

The well-cried and established Defence and Overseas Policy Committee has been modified by successive Administrations since the war to meet changing conditions. Chaired by the Prime Minister and comprising the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Home Secretary, and with all the Chiefs of Staff in attendance, this committee used to meet monthly with prepared papers, receiving the world intelligence picture as seen by the Joint Intelligence Committee and with ministers together having the opportunity to listen to the professional assessments and advice of the Chiefs of Staff before they made their political decisions.

As a staff officer in the Military Operations Branch of the then War Office who was seconded to the Cabinet Secretariat for the Suez operation I saw at first hand the disasters which followed when this element of the machinery of government was not strictly adhered to.

Since that day I have served four Chiefs of Defence Staff over a number of years and before my retirement was a member of the Army Board. Throughout this period the DOPC system has been steadily eroded by successive Prime Ministers and governments, with some exceptions. The result has been that the fully considered professional advice of the Chiefs of Staff, in the knowledge of the latest intelligence assessments, has not been

available to ministers at the right moment and, indeed, it has seemed to me that the very status of the Chiefs of Staff has been steadily and deliberately reduced.

This was sometimes, I fear, for political and economic reasons and one also received the impression that certain senior civil servants and Foreign Office officials wished this to be so. A few months ago, when I questioned a senior civil servant on the matter, he defended the changes which had taken place on the grounds that capabilities and commitments were almost entirely devoted to Nato and since our colonial commitments and others had virtually disappeared there was no requirement now for the Prime Minister and senior ministers of the DOPC to have regular personal advice from the Chiefs of Staff.

I have a high regard for my late senior Civil Service colleagues, but they are not qualified to give military advice. Nor is any Secretary of State for Defence qualified to put forward military judgment to the Cabinet subcommittee without the attendance of the professional heads of the Armed Services. Of course, civil servants can properly inform ministers of the financial and budgetary implications and options but the machinery of government should always allow the Chiefs of Staff to be considered views to be available to this vital committee on a regular basis.

I sincerely hope that a lesson has been learnt and that in future our foreign and defence policy will be regularly discussed in the proper forum, with each member having an opportunity to make his input before decisions are made.

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Cavalry and Guards Club,
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Plans for church unity move

From Lord Fletcher
Sir, My friend the Bishop of Norwich (April 3) does less than justice to the final report of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission. His purported quotation from page 84 of the report is misleading as it stands. The words in brackets do not appear in the report. The Bishop informs me that they were intended to be printed as an interpolation of his own.

It would be unfortunate if progress towards reunion were felt to depend on the precise significance to be given in a united Christendom to the primacy of the Bishop of Rome. Any form of organic unity may be a distant project, but the report registers the impressive progress made on a wide range of issues hitherto considered controversial. It emphasizes, on page 5, the bonds that unite our two churches:

We confess the same faith in the one true God; we have received the same baptism; we have been baptized with the same baptism; and we preach the same Gospel.

The increasing tolerance and understanding among the laity in both churches, coupled with a real desire for reconciliation. In recent years an increasing number of Anglicans visiting the Continent attend a Catholic Mass as communicants and are not discouraged from doing so. Even in England Anglicans are welcomed as communicants at a Catholic Mass or a requiem Mass.

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One hopes that, with the forthcoming papal visit, the momentum already established will not be lost. An initiative for a tangible step forward might well be a study of the case for a mutual reconciliation of ministries.

Yours faithfully,
FLETCHER,
House of Lords,
April 5.

Channel link
From the Director General, General Council of British Shipping
Sir, If the Government stick to their announced policy and insist that the UK half of any Channel tunnel or bridge is financed by private enterprise the shipping industry can have no possible objection. We do not fear commercial competition. What we do fear is a tunnel or bridge started on a "private enterprise" basis. The UK half of the project gets into difficulty and costs and time-scale escalate, as by all precedent they will, the Government of the day, whatever that may be, feeling impelled to subsidise the project or support a British Rail guarantee of throughput (which changes to a "public" thing as subsidy), particularly if the French are determined to press on.

When the ferries and hovercraft can carry all increases in traffic, passengers and freight, the UK half of the project gets into difficulty and costs and time-scale escalate, as by all precedent they will, the Government of the day, whatever that may be, feeling impelled to subsidise the project or support a British Rail guarantee of throughput (which changes to a "public" thing as subsidy), particularly if the French are determined to press on.

The ferries have never been completely stopped on any day since World War II, whereas a tunnel or a bridge could be blocked by weather or engineering mishap or industrial action or sabotage. Better not start. Remember Concorde.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK SHOVELTON,
General Council of British Shipping,
30-32 St Mary Axe, EC3,
April 2.

Earlier bird
From the Reverend Canon E. F. Hudson
Sir, Reviewing Steven Runciman's *Sicilian Vespers* in today's Times (April 1) Philip Howard writes: "Cambridge today publishes the first paperback edition of Steven Runciman's famous book. But a paperback copy has been in my study for more than 20 years. Published as a Pelican by Penguin Books in 1960, it then cost 6s 1d it is worth its present price, £8.95."

I don't think that Mr Howard, or I, has been influenced by today's date. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, E. F. HUDSON, The Rectory, Ingatstone, Essex, April 1.

A goodly usage
From Mr Bernard Cox
Sir, Mrs Tullio (April 3) complains of the newspaper coming off on her hands. For many years I used old copies of *The Times* for pressing my trousers (no damping was required). However, I had to stop this habit of a lifetime when my wife showed that the ink was transferring from paper to iron and then on to my white shirt.

Perhaps one has to use properly matured copies for this purpose. Any evidence on the proper length of maturity would be welcome.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD COX,
89 Kingsfield Avenue,
North Harrow,
Middlesex,
April 3.

Yours faithfully,
TOM ARNOLD,
House of Commons,
April 1.

population without fully satisfying the other; it would for that reason be more likely to inflame the security situation rather than to diminish it. Integration would not reassure the majority population since most unionists see devolution as the best safeguard for their own particular lifestyle and culture; and it would set back constructive relationships with the Republic of Ireland and important sections of United States opinion.

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Letters to the Editor

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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

INTERNATIONAL

SWEDEN
Workers
win
a say

The Swedish employers association, the Swedish Labour Federation and white-collar unions have reached an agreement to give about 1.5 million workers in private industry a greater say in the running of their companies.

The employees will also have a voice in the adoption of new technology, organization of work plans and economic decisions.

However, the so-called co-determination committees will not have any veto over employer's right to hire and fire, as unions demanded some years ago.

JAPAN

Japanese car registrations hit an all-time monthly high in March, going up 6.5 per cent from a year before to a total of 529,950.

Japan does not intend to reduce its self-imposed ceiling on car exports to Canada this year, Mr. Shintaro Abe, the International Trade and Industry Minister, announced yesterday. He said he would recommend that exports be kept to the 1981 level.

AUSTRALIA

Employment in Australia fell in February, reversing the previous 12 months' trend, according to a survey by the Statistics Bureau. The bureau said civilian employment (seasonally adjusted) fell to 5,412,898 in February, down 5,000 or 0.1 per cent from January. In February last year, employment increased by 23,100 or 0.4 per cent.

Despite the fall from January, employment in the latest month remained at 76,600 or 1.2 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Mr. Nils Aalund, Swedish Industry Minister, who is touring Western Australia's mining operation areas, urged Australian companies to invest in Sweden to force their way into the European market.

UNITED STATES

International coal shipments will more than double in the 1980s — from 192 million tonnes in 1980 to 425 million tonnes by 1990, according to National Economic Research Associates, an American firm of consulting economists.

It predicted that coal exports by Europe will rise by 1 per cent a year above the general rate of inflation between 1985 and 1990.

WEST GERMANY

West German crude steel production totalled 3.88 million metric tons in March, up 11.3 per cent from February. Pig iron output rose 12.1 per cent to 3.82 million tonnes.

West German crude steel production rose 3.1 per cent in the first quarter of 1982 over the same quarter of 1981.

The regional bureau of the federal statistics office said in Düsseldorf.

The West German manufacturing industry index of incoming orders fell by a provisional 1.3 per cent seasonally adjusted in February, after being unchanged in January.

FRANCE

ETPM, a subsidiary of the French Vallourec steel pipe group, has been awarded a contract worth \$30m (£51m) by the Norwegian state oil company Statoil to lay a pipeline in the North Sea. It is one of the biggest orders of its type.

BELGIUM

Belgium unemployment at the end of March remained at a record high of 10.9 per cent. The only big change was a decline of 2,000 in the number of young jobless.

The trade deficit of the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union widened sharply in January to a provisional Bel Fr 30,800m from Bel Fr 1,800m in December.

The national institute of statistics reported in Brussels, January marked a worsening of the economic union's trading position, which had improved in the end of last year after a record deficit of Bel Fr 51,600m was recorded in August.

UGANDA

Uganda will request the potential donors at a World Bank meeting in Paris on May 17 for help in its \$600m (about £37m) recovery plan.

Frances Williams assesses our competitiveness

The international
race Britain
cannot win

Last year witnessed a rare if not unique event in recent British economic history. We managed, in a small way, to improve our international competitive position by dint of our own domestic labours, instead of relying entirely as in the past on the depreciation of sterling to keep British goods in the running on world markets.

In 1981 lower pay settlements and a surge in productivity produced a rise in wage costs per unit of output of only 2½ per cent. Britain's competitive position since the mid-1960s when wage costs actually fell. This compares with a rise of 25 per cent in the year to mid-1980. By contrast, the latest international comparisons show unit wage costs rising at a yearly rate of 3 per cent in Japan, 4 per cent in Germany, 11 per cent in the United States and 14 per cent in France.

The result will have been to boost British competitiveness by perhaps 2 per cent or so, in addition to the gain from a 10 per cent drop in sterling over the year, enabling us to claw back perhaps a quarter of the 50 per cent loss of competitiveness suffered during 1979 and 1980.

Government ministers are losing no opportunity to reiterate their message that continued low pay settlements and greater productivity are essential if workers are to price themselves into jobs in international markets.

Will that message be heeded? And even if it is, will Britain reap the benefits? On wages, the signals are unimpressive if not alarming. Pay settlements in the 1981-82 wage round are averaging about 7 per cent in manufacturing, the most internationally exposed sector of the economy.

The index of competitiveness used measures the rise in labour costs per unit of output in this country compared with our competitors, expressed in a common currency.

This is just 1 to 2 per cent below settlement rates in the previous pay round, despite steadily climbing unemployment and continued depressed output.

The majority of economic forecasters believe that the next pay round will see a higher level of settlements, perhaps of about 8-10 per cent. This would have earnings growing at 10 to 12 per cent over the year.

The forecasters point out that industrial output is

expected to pick up quite sharply later this year; that unemployment is likely to stabilize or rise very slowly; and that redundancy, and that company profits are predicted to increase rapidly, by anything between 20 and 30 per cent in 1982, with similar improvements in the running on world markets.

All these factors are likely to encourage workers to press for higher pay to compensate for the drop in living standards over the past year or so. Information collected by Incomes Data Services, a private company which monitors pay, reveals that a few companies, in better financial shape than last year, have agreed to somewhat higher pay deals this time around.

Though companies may be disinclined to be generous on wages — the higher profits expected to pick up quite sharply later this year; that unemployment is likely to stabilize or rise very slowly; and that redundancy, and that company profits are predicted to increase rapidly, by anything between 20 and 30 per cent in 1982, with similar improvements in the running on world markets.

Most economic forecasters believe the next pay round will see a higher level of settlements, perhaps of round 9 to 10 per cent.

will not be enough to finance stockbuilding and more investment, let alone high pay settlements — they may find it hard to resist workers' claims for some modest relaxation. If economic recovery persists in subsequent years, the pressures on pay are certain to grow stronger.

The Government, not surprisingly, is taking a more optimistic line. Treasury economists, who expect that inflation will be into single figures shortly and could fall to 7½ per cent by the middle of next year, believe that workers are unlikely to get pay rises significantly above the inflation rate. (In the present round and the last, wage deals have averaged about 3 per cent below the rise in prices.)

Some small rise in earnings next year would not upset the improvement in competitiveness if it could be covered by increased productivity. But it is not at all certain that last year's impressive performance can be repeated. In 1981, output per person in manufacturing rose by more than 10 per cent and output per person-hour by over 8 per cent to surpass the peak levels reached before the recession began in the spring of 1979.

This is a bigger rise than experience of past recessions would have suggested and it

began unusually in the cycle, when output was still falling. This, plus anecdotal evidence about new attitudes and working practices on the shop floor, has produced talk of a productivity "miracle" — the suggestion that the long-run trend of productivity has shifted upwards from the sluggish 1½ per cent or so seen for much of the 1970s.

Others take the view that recent rapid productivity growth is temporary, and unlikely to be sustained. They argue that the figures have been boosted artificially by closure or mothballing of less productive capacity to give a once-and-for-all productivity boost. And they point out that in past recessions labour "shaken out" has been "shaken in" again once recovery is underway, dampening previous productivity growth.

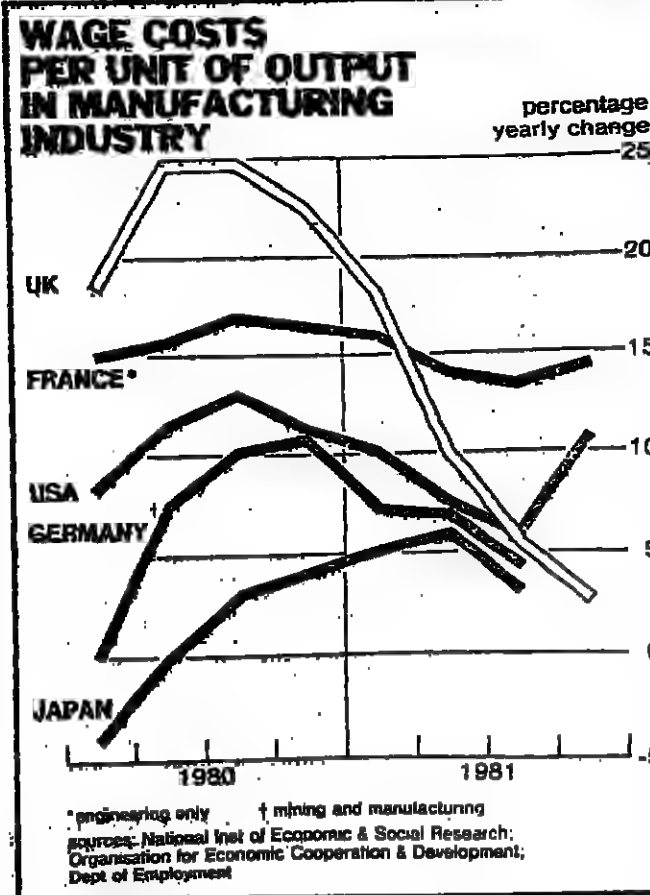
The Treasury counters this by arguing that continuing competitive pressures, and companies' expectations "of only moderate economic recovery", will keep up the pressure to hold costs down and by implication to be cautious about recruiting labour.

We shall not know who is right until output recovers in earnest. But no one is suggesting that last year's productivity gains can be repeated. Over the next few months, as job losses continue while output picks up, productivity is likely to go on rising, though at a lower pace. But in the longer term even believers in miracles cannot expect sustained productivity growth above 4 and 4½ per cent a year.

This alone would be twice as good as Britain's performance over the past few years. Another problem area is the scene abroad. Britain can only improve her competitive position without recourse to devaluation if her unit labour costs are rising more slowly than those of international rivals.

Last year she may have succeeded. But there are signs that in other countries too the rise in labour costs may be slowing down.

Over the past year or so recession, as in Britain, has tended to inhibit the growth in earnings. (France, which is trying to reflate its economy, is a clear exception.) But recession has also slowed the growth of productivity, reflecting the usual pattern in which productivity falls and rises with output. The reason is that output is normally cut more quickly than jobs.



HOW WE COMPARED WITH FOREIGN COMPETITORS, 1975-81

% change	UK	US	Japan	France	Germany
Unit wage costs 1975-1980	80	36	0	45	17
Latest quarter 1980-81	2.8	10.8	2.9	14.4	4.2
Output per person-hour 1975-80	7	15	42	31	16
Latest quarter 1980-81	8.3	4.4	4.3	-4.6	3.5

The increase in unit labour costs elsewhere has thus not been as dramatic as in Britain. But economic recovery, which will be boosted by the recent drop in oil prices, means that productivity is beginning to improve in most countries.

Even if it only gets back on trend — and it should do better than that in the early stages of recovery — this would mean productivity growth of 2½ per cent a year in the United States, 3 per cent in West Germany, 4 per cent in France and 7½ per cent in Japan.

All this serves to demonstrate how fast Britain has run to stand still in the international race for competitiveness. If our main trading partners, with their better productivity records

Airing grievances, dispelling rumours

AT WORK:
INDUSTRIAL
DEMOCRACY

By Rupert Morris

Enthusiasm for worker participation — or industrial democracy, if you prefer — has been a sporadic phenomenon since the Bullock Report and widespread recommitment in 1977. The Post Office's decision to scrap its worker-director scheme two years ago was a further setback.

Old-fashioned management and trade unions suspicious of schemes that smelt of collaboration have combined to prevent isolated initiatives leading to any general move towards greater employee involvement.

Among the isolated success stories have been profit-sharing schemes like the one operated by British Petroleum, which claims a 60 per cent response to its offer of two shares for the price of one to any employee with more than four years' service. But other large firms, such as GEC, are opposed to such schemes, arguing that it is virtually impossible to relate individual employees' performance to the company's share value and that consequently employee shareholding schemes provide no real productivity incentive.

At a more modest level however, there is a form of worker participation which has grown out of Bullock and been adopted by a sprinkling of medium-sized firms with some success. It is the company council.

Proprietary Perfumes (PPL) of Ashford, Kent, a subsidiary of Unilever, introduced such a company council in 1976. There was no pressure for trade union recognition, and industrial relations were calm.

They have remained so ever since and Mr. Geoffrey Roberts, PPL chairman, has been able to spread the word about company councils to his occasionally envious colleagues on the CBI Kent Committee, of which he is this year's chairman.

It is probably impossible to know how much of the good



Talking it over — the company council at Proprietary Perfumes

relations that seem to reign at PPL are attributable to the existence of the company council. But PPL is indisputably a successful and growing company — its turnover last year was £57m which has never had any work stoppage among its 500 employees.

The council's constitution, which runs to six foolscap pages, deals at length with consultation. But it rapidly becomes clear that the prime object is communication.

PPL's work force has shown little inclination to take an active part in management policy making.

Mr. Roberts said: "We needed to make sure that people felt involved in what was happening, at all grades, both management and non-management. It's like a family, where you know that if you stop talking to each other you are in trouble."

The employees take it very seriously. Their representatives are elected from the various divisions — perfumery, works, research and development, commercial and marketing — to serve on the council for two years. The level of voting is high, with 85 per cent taking part.

Candidates and their supporters make posters and rosettes which clutter the factory at election time.

The eight-strong council meets every five months, with monthly meetings of divisional committees (also elected), being held. The council, in accordance with the constitution, can discuss

budgets, balance sheets, investment trends, sales, marketing and manpower.

In spite of all the democratic paraphernalia, however, it is an essentially paternalistic system. Mr. Roberts did not like that particular word but admitted that the degree of consultation depended entirely on how much he, as chairman of the company and of the council, was prepared to divulge.

Conversations with Mr. Roberts and three other members of the council did not reveal many major developments which had been inspired by the council, apart from the establishment of a dental centre on site. Canteen facilities, car parks, rest rooms and other practical matters were among the most common items for discussion.

Major policy decisions are often presented to the council as fait accompli. "But at least we'll know why," said Andrew Atfield, the company accountant and a council member.

"I think the chairman would be a fool to tell us the whole truth all the time," said John Church, council member for the compounding division.

Mr. Church said the council's existence did not stop the management taking occasional wrong decisions, which could, with consultation, have been avoided.

The installation of a particular machine in his department had been a case in

point, he said. But council members agreed that though it had its faults, the council did provide a forum for the airing of grievances, and the dispelling of rumours and for general discussion which made an important contribution to morale.

Next month PPL will be integrated with the flavours and fragrances division of its parent company. The council will continue to operate at the Ashford site.

Surveys of company councils and other forms of industrial democracy have been unable to show any clear trends. The British Institute of Management, for instance, produced a survey last year in which 93 per cent of responding firms claimed to have established, or to be establishing, worker participation.

The CBI though produced a more comprehensive report on 413 companies which employed a total of more than three million people. This report showed that only 17 per cent of company chairmen chaired company or works councils and only 17 per cent of firms with such councils had established them in the last three years — indicating a slow rate of change.

But last month, in the week after Sir Raymond Pennock, CBI President, argued in the columns of *The Times* for more positive moves to involve workers, the Confederation was taking a rather more optimistic view. This optimism was

based on an independent survey of the employees of the same 413 companies which showed more than half the workforce felt their managements had become less secretive and more inclined to consultation. Only 29 per cent said there had been no improvement.

The new THROGMORTON TRUST PLC. Capital Loan Stock Valuation 6th April 1982. The Net Asset Value per £1 of Capital Loan Stock is 290.89p calculated on Formula 1.

Securities valued at middle market prices

Base Lending Rates

ARN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCI	13%
Consolidated Crds	13%
C. Hoare & Co	13%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000 11.75%, £10,000 up to £50,000 12%, £50,000 and over 12.75%.

Business Editor

The pressure
stays on

For those who have been advocating a lower exchange rate, sterling below £1.75 and heading fast for DM4.20 may seem like a reasonable start. But even if they were happy with a small devaluation, I doubt that the authorities are inclined to see silver linings on the present foreign exchange clouds.

Indeed, the far more pressing thought must be how to arrest a much more serious run on the pound should it show signs of developing in the days and weeks ahead. Money market rates have been relatively slow to respond — largely thanks to a generous supply of liquidity from the Bank.

Though period rates were notably firmer yesterday and bill dealing rates clearly reflected nervousness on the part of the houses given that the forecast shortage was no more than £50m. Presumably, the Bank will want to hold off taking interest rate action as long as possible. But it chooses to play it that way.

Ironically, yesterday's preliminary estimate of a March money supply (sterling M3) rise of only ½ per cent was better than generally expected.

Although domestic money supply developments are hardly likely to be a major factor in foreign exchange market thinking at the moment, the figures are in any case not necessarily as good as they look.

Without the benefit of the collection of a further £1,000m of back tax, sterling M3 might well have grown by closer to 1 per cent.

Bank lending to the private sector is once again the villain of the piece, probably rising by at least £2,000m. The London Clearers estimate the underlying increase in lending at £1,600m. But that will represent some movement by borrowers out of overdrafts; and the Bank's own massive purchases of commercial bills may well be offset by a large fall in discount house balance sheets and non-bank holdings of bills.

There is no alternative to some further depreciation of sterling if the Government wishes to improve significantly the competitiveness of British industry. This does not mean that containing unit labour costs is unimportant. It reduces the need for devaluation and dampens its inflationary impact.

But the Government should not pretend to British workers that the achievement of greater competitiveness lies in their hands alone. To do so could prove a recipe for disappointment and recalcitrance.

Hammerson

Tidying up

The wish to tidy up the portfolio is the excuse given by Hammerson Property and Investment Trust chairman, Mr. Sydney Mason for asking shareholders to dig into their pockets for £70.5m. The bulk (£55.9m) of cash from the 3 for 10 rights issue is being used to buy out minority interests in some of the group's properties, including the Brent Cross shopping centre. The remainder is earmarked for extending Hammerson's Bow Valley Square development in Calgary, Canada.

For the year to December the group's gross rental income was £50.8m, up a quarter, and the Mitre House and Brent Cross deals should be worth an additional £3m in revenue. Pre-tax profits last year were up by almost a half at just over £15m.

The market shuddered slightly on yesterday's rights news, and with the ordinary and "A" closing at 600p and 585p respectively, the group is capitalised at £282m.

Estimated net asset value per share pre-issue is put at about 800p. Following the issue, this is likely to be diluted to about 725p, though some brokers are forecasting a net asset value of 760p from the resulting marriage values.

Mr. Mason is at long last complying with the new accounting standard for property investment companies and is underlining the internal revaluation of the group portfolio this year with a promise that an independent valuation will be conducted within the next five years. This may finally end the estimates of the company's true worth which have been floating around the market for years.

Bowater

Asset backing

Bowater has bettered market forecasts of £100m pre-tax profits for 1981, turning in £106.7m. The group's share price also bucked the market's downward trend, rising to 239p despite the failure to increase the year's dividend from 16.42p gross. But behind the apparent gloss, the figures are not wildly encouraging and seem to point towards barely improved profitability in the present year. A prime factor in the profits improvement — up from £85m last time — is the favourable sterling/dollar exchange rate.

North American paper and pulp continues to contribute the major part of the group's profits and its asset backing for the share. Bowater expects it to go on doing so for the foreseeable future, but two major problems are looming.

The slow-down of the United States economy and renegotiation of Canadian labour contracts in the present year — traditionally a tough proposition — have acted as antidotes to enthusiasm about Bowater's 1982 prospects.

Newsprint operations — which account for between 35 and 40 per cent of group trading profits — are said to be holding up well, with the main problem one of overcapacity rather than poor demand. Newsprint stocks are however understood to be around double their normal level. The pulp operations are near the bottom of the cycle, and the hope is that demand should be able to improve by the end of the year, depending on the strength of an economic recovery.

As for the United Kingdom operations, 1982 may be slightly less disastrous. Last year the profitability of British and European sector fell by 66m, but 1981's rationalization exercise should reduce costs.

About £7m went on cutting back the size of the workforce, and Heavy loss maker waters also disposed of. But trading is still bumping along the bottom with no sign of sustained recovery.

A yield of 6.9 per cent is hardly exciting without speculative takeover support. Current cost share holders' funds of £819m make Bowater a large lump to swallow — but then the current market value of the group is a rather more modest £375m.

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	Company	Price Chg	Gross Div	Yld %	Actual	P/E Ratio
120	Ass Brit Ind CULS	128	-2	10.0	7.8	-
75	62 Airstream Group	73	-1	4.7	6.4	11.6
51	33 Armistice & Rhodes	44	-1	4.3	9.8	3.7
205	187 Bardons Hill	199	-2	9.7	4.9	9.7
107	100 CCL 11% Conv Pref	106	-1	15.7	14.8	-
104	61 Deborah Services	61	-1	6.0	9.8	3.0
131	97 Frank Horsell	125	-	6.4	5.1	11.3
83	39 Frederick Parker	76	-	6.4	8.4	3.9
78	46 George Blair	56	-1	7.3	7.6	6.9
102	93 Ind Corp Castings	108	-1	15.7	14.5	-
109	160 Isis Corp Prof	96	-1	7.0	7.3	3.0
113	84 Jackson Group	115	-	8.7	7.6	8.4
130	102 James Burroughs	212	-2	31.3	12.9	3.4
64	51 Scruttons "A"	63	-1	5.3	8.4	9.7
222	159 Torday & Carlisle	159	-	10.7	6.7	5.1
15	10 Twinstock Ord	137	-	-	-	-
89	66 Twinstock 15% ULS	80	-	15.0	18.8	-
44	25 Unilever Holdings	25	-	3.0	12.0	4.5
103	73 Walter Alexander	79	-1	6.4	8.1	5.2
263	212 W. S. Yeates	229ad	-	14.5	6.3	6.0

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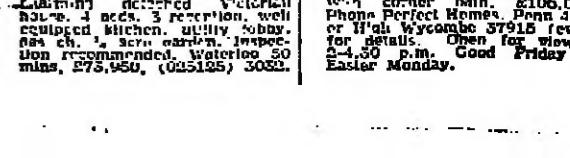
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BELL'S

New York rumped the Metropolitan
closure of the planned New York
Mercantile Exchange and
by other commodity and
columns was light. New York
The Duw Jones. Average was
low by 2.47 points to 82.96
about 11 am (New York time)
Declines outnumbered gains
is 570-378 among the 1,626
crossing the tape.
The first-hour run
about 10m

The Wall Street and Canadian stock prices in the table relate to Monday's close, because of the shift to British Summer Time. This will continue until Eastern Daylight Time begins in the United States.

Prices were slightly higher in moderate trading of American stock Exchange issues. American Telephone & Telegraph was the most active issue up 5¢ to \$55.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Water Masses 7.05 Evolution of Molluscs 7.30 Neurophysiology 7.55 Closeown 9.45 The Wombles narrated by Bernard Cribbins (r) 9.50 Jackanory. Eleanor Bron with the author of the book 'The Wombles' (r) 10.05 Cartoons The Banana Spills (r) 10.35 Why Don't You...? 11.00 Closeown 12.30 News Afternoon with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart 12.57 Regional News (London and SE only) Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles 1.00 Peckinpah on One. Salman Rushdie talks about his award-winning novel 'Midnight's Children' which is being launched in paperback today 1.45 Over the Moon (r) 2.00 Golf: Men v Women. Sally Little plays Greg Norman (r) 2.10 The Painted Boots (1980) starring Jenny Land and Bill Blewett. The story of two canal families 3.53 Regional news (not London)

3.55 Play School. For the under fives (shown earlier on BBC 2) 4.20 Cartoons: Scooby Doo Where Are You? (r). Take Hart. Tony Hart designs an heraldic shield. 5.00 John Craven's Newsworld. 5.05 A Little Silver Trumpet. Episode two and Mrs Jessop is heartbroken after having the precious tin box containing Jim Ashburn's savings stolen. 5.40 News with Michael Sullivan 6.00 South East at Six 6.25 Newsline. 6.45 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. Four funnies: Tom and Jerry in Jerry and the Lion and Sleepy Time Possum; Foghorn Leghorn in Feather Bluster; and Bugs Bunny in Hare-Aban Nights. 7.15 Film: Jesus Christ Superstar (1973) starring Ted Neeley, Carl Anderson and Yvonne Elliman. The screen version of the Tim Rice/Andrew Lloyd Webber rock opera. A group of young people travel to the Holy Land and act out the events that led to the Crucifixion. The director is Norman Jewison.

9.00 News with John Humphrys. 9.25 Rough Justice. The first of a three-part series concerning serious crimes and the persons sent to prison for them. A new look at the evidence begs the question 'should this man have been found guilty beyond all doubt?' The first subject is Mervyn Russell who was found guilty of stabbing a young girl to death in 1977. 9.55 Sportsnight introduced by Harry Carpenter. Highlights from one of tonight's European Football competitions. It is the semi-final stage and in the European Cup Aston Villa face the Belgians Anderlecht while Tottenham Hotspur, playing at home, meet Barcelona in the Cup-Winners' Cup. 10.50 A Question of Guilt. Episode three in the reconstruction of the story about Constance Kent whose young step-brother was brutally murdered (r). 11.45 News headlines and weather.

CHOICE
In Chronicle's CITY OF THE DEAD (BBC 2, 8.10 pm) Professor Gordon Rugg takes us back to a civilization created four and a half thousand years ago. From the Indus Valley we follow him in his learned footsteps around two major cities — one at Mohenjo-daro, the other at Harappa. It was in the middle of the last century when the discovery of an engraved seal stone gave the first clue to the existence of an ancient civilization in the area. But not until 1922 was the area excavated by an expedition and a British archaeologist Sir John Marshall was responsible for unearthing the world's third major river civilization after the Nile and the Euphrates.

Robert Fleming in Crown Court (ITV 1.30pm).

COURT OF APPEAL
The meaning of 'dishonestly'

POLITICAL USE OF COURTS DEPLORED

REGINA V GHOSH
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Bingham

The law on the meaning of "dishonestly" in the Theft Act 1968, was in a complicated state and, instead of seeking to reconcile irreconcilable authorities, another solution to the problem of ascertaining the meaning of the word was proposed by the Court of Appeal.

The Lord Chief Justice was reading a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Deb Baran Ghosh, a surgeon of Skeena Hill, Wandsworth, London, against conviction at St Albans Crown Court (Judge Andrew Davies, QC) of obtaining money by deception, contrary to section 15 of the Theft Act 1968, when he was interrupted by a question from Mr Justice Bingham as to the meaning of the word "dishonestly".

The Lord Chief Justice said that the appellant was acting as a locum tenens consultant at a hospital. The counts alleged that he had himself carried out a surgical operation to terminate pregnancy or that money was due to him on account of the operation, but that he had obtained the money by deception, contrary to section 15 of the Theft Act 1968.

His Lordship considered *Scott v Metropolitan Police Commissioner* (1975) AC 619 and stated that nothing in that case was in issue. He said that, so far as dishonesty was concerned, "it is in a different category from nothing in *Leigh* itself justified putting theft and conspiracy to defraud into different categories — which was clear from a reference to *R v P* (1973) QB 530.

The difficulty with section 15 was that dishonesty came in two forms — (1) a person who by deception dishonestly obtains property... (2) a person who by deception dishonestly obtains money... If a person knew that he was not telling the truth, that was dishonest. In other words, that there was nothing dishonest about his behaviour on any of the counts.

The ground of appeal was simply that the judge misdirected the jury as to the meaning of dishonesty.

BBC 2

6.40 Open University: Maths: Completeness. 7.05 Magic and Shakespeare's Plays. 7.30 Microbes and the Microscope. 7.55 Closeown. 10.20 Gharbar. A magazine for Asian viewers (r). 10.45 Closeown. 11.00 Play School. For the under fives presented by Sarah Long and Stuart McGugan. The story is The Little Green Frog by Chloe Ashcroft. 11.25 Closeown. 12.30 News Afternoon. 12.57 Regional News (London and SE only) Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles 1.00 Peckinpah on One. Salman Rushdie talks about his award-winning novel 'Midnight's Children' which is being launched in paperback today 1.45 Over the Moon (r) 2.00 Golf: Men v Women. Sally Little plays Greg Norman (r) 2.10 The Painted Boots (1980) starring Jenny Land and Bill Blewett. The story of two canal families 3.53 Regional news (not London)

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9.00 News with John Humphrys. 9.25 Rough Justice. The first of a three-part series concerning serious crimes and the persons sent to prison for them. A new look at the evidence begs the question 'should this man have been found guilty beyond all doubt?' The first subject is Mervyn Russell who was found guilty of stabbing a young girl to death in 1977. 9.55 Sportsnight introduced by Harry Carpenter. Highlights from one of tonight's European Football competitions. It is the semi-final stage and in the European Cup Aston Villa face the Belgians Anderlecht while Tottenham Hotspur, playing at home, meet Barcelona in the Cup-Winners' Cup. 10.50 A Question of Guilt. Episode three in the reconstruction of the story about Constance Kent whose young step-brother was brutally murdered (r). 11.45 News headlines and weather.

CHOICE
In Chronicle's CITY OF THE DEAD (BBC 2, 8.10 pm) Professor Gordon Rugg takes us back to a civilization created four and a half thousand years ago. From the Indus Valley we follow him in his learned footsteps around two major cities — one at Mohenjo-daro, the other at Harappa. It was in the middle of the last century when the discovery of an engraved seal stone gave the first clue to the existence of an ancient civilization in the area. But not until 1922 was the area excavated by an expedition and a British archaeologist Sir John Marshall was responsible for unearthing the world's third major river civilization after the Nile and the Euphrates.

Robert Fleming in Crown Court (ITV 1.30pm).

COURT OF APPEAL
The meaning of 'dishonestly'

POLITICAL USE OF COURTS DEPLORED

REGINA V GHOSH
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Bingham

The law on the meaning of "dishonestly" in the Theft Act 1968, was in a complicated state and, instead of seeking to reconcile irreconcilable authorities, another solution to the problem of ascertaining the meaning of the word was proposed by the Court of Appeal.

The Lord Chief Justice was reading a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Deb Baran Ghosh, a surgeon of Skeena Hill, Wandsworth, London, against conviction at St Albans Crown Court (Judge Andrew Davies, QC) of obtaining money by deception, contrary to section 15 of the Theft Act 1968, when he was interrupted by a question from Mr Justice Bingham as to the meaning of the word "dishonestly".

The Lord Chief Justice said that the appellant was acting as a locum tenens consultant at a hospital. The counts alleged that he had himself carried out a surgical operation to terminate pregnancy or that money was due to him on account of the operation, but that he had obtained the money by deception, contrary to section 15 of the Theft Act 1968.

His Lordship considered *Scott v Metropolitan Police Commissioner* (1975) AC 619 and stated that nothing in that case was in issue. He said that, so far as dishonesty was concerned, "it is in a different category from nothing in *Leigh* itself justified putting theft and conspiracy to defraud into different categories — which was clear from a reference to *R v P* (1973) QB 530.

The difficulty with section 15 was that dishonesty came in two forms — (1) a person who by deception dishonestly obtains property... (2) a person who by deception dishonestly obtains money... If a person knew that he was not telling the truth, that was dishonest. In other words, that there was nothing dishonest about his behaviour on any of the counts.

The ground of appeal was simply that the judge misdirected the jury as to the meaning of dishonesty.

Radio 4

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